A
FULL and COMPLETE
HISTORY
OF
His R——l H—— the D—— of C——d
AND
Lady G——r, the fair Adultreſs.

THE THIRD EDITION.

In TWO VOLUMES,
Price 6s. bound.

Richd Grosvenor the noble Plaintif
& Husband of the Lady who is the subje
of these Memoirs was the 8th Baronet
1st Earl of that noble family, who wa
April 8th 1761 Created Baron Grosveno
and July 5th 1784 advanced to the
dignity of Earl, his Lordship, wa
born June 13th 1731 and Married July
19th 1764 to Henrietta Vernon daught
of Henry Vernon Esqr M P for the Town
of Bedford (by Henrietta daughter of Th
3rd Earl of Strafford) the above Earl
Grosvenor had by his Lady two Sons
Richard who died an infant, and
Robert whose father deceasing Augt 5
1802 succeeded to the Title

His Royal Highness the Duke of
Cumberland the noble defendt and subje
of the other part of these Memoirs was
(3rd Son & 6th Child of his Majesty Georg
II) born April 15th 1721 died unmarri
Octr 31st 1765 (vide Debretts Peerage)

A
FULL and COMPLETE
HISTORY
OF
His R——l H—— the D— of C——d
AND
Lady G——r, the fair Adultreſs,

From their firſt Acquaintance to the final Determination of the Cauſe, at the Inſtance of Lord G——r, in the Court of King's B—— for *Crim Con.*

CONTAINING,

A circumſtantial Account of all their private Interviews, with all the letters which paſſed between them, and the particular Occaſions on which they were wrote.

With an Account of all the Proceedings in Doctors C——ns and Court of King's B— in that Cauſe, with the Speeches of the Council on both ſides, and Depoſitions of the Witneſſes.

VOL. II.

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THE

FAIR ADULTRESS.

I Cannot begin the ſecond volume of theſe memoirs better, than by an addreſs to thoſe ladies, who either actually are, or have been ſome time or other, in ſimilar engagements, to thoſe of the heroine of theſe ſheets. "Oh! ye fair, conſider well the impropriety of her conduct, whom nor birth, nor exalted rank could ſhield from the furious aſſaults of the vulgar tongue, which was continually employed in publiſhing her diſgrace to the cenſorious world, to which ſhe is now moſt deſervedly held up, as an unparallelled example of infidelity to the nuptial vow. Think of this, oh! ye fair and let the indelible blot of infamy ſhe has entailed on herſelf, be a conſtant check on your own conduct."

The amourous C——— did not heſitate a moment to return the following welcome anſwer, to the aforementioned letter.

"Ten thouſand——thouſand kiſſes I imprinted upon the dear letter, wrote by the charmer of my heart, which brought comfort to my ſoul, as promiſed joys to dying martyrs given.—Oh! you are all divinity!——ſure heaven in forming you took particular care;—but my love judge not too raſhly of him who lives but in your ſmiles!——Faults he has many, which you, and only you can rectify!——To ſome parts of your charge, I plead, my fair accuſer, guilty, and am bold enough to declare, the known clemency of the judge mitigates the dread of the ſentence. The bee ranges from flower to flower, nor fixes 'till he comes to the ſweeteſt; had not Idalia (whoſe votary I glory to own myſelf) in a lucky hour produced you, as a ſample to what perfection human nature could be brought, I ſtill ſhould have continued upon

Fancy's airy wing,——purſuing and diſſatisfied,——hoping, and diſappointed:——every freſh object entertained for the hour,——when departed, diſguſt ſucceeded, but in you every wiſh——every idea——my youthful imagination formed, are compleated; deſcription cannot reach you——no not in dreams——in all the viſionary objects ſeen, when opening heavens its glories does diſcloſe, you are the point to which my trembling love inclines:——

"Oh! how bleſſed!——how doubly bleſſed the man that touches that hand, ſoft and white as the downs of ſwans! ——tap that cheek, bluſhing as the roſy morn!——Preſs thoſe lips, ripe for extatic bliſs!——Gaze upon thoſe eyes where baſking Cupids dwell!——

kiſs that neck, which beats to Love's alarms!——I can no more!——Imagination exceeds all bounds, and cries; ——Bold man, ——ſtop,——nor attempt a deſcription of what no pen is equal to.——The conveyance of your letters I feared would not meet with your approbation, my mind was all chaos; ſo they were delivered into my fair one's hands was all I ſtudied, the propriety I entirely forgot, but my love, for the future, your commands ſhall be a law. I will be any thing,——every thing——you pleaſe to make me.—— You are ſuch a proficient in the ſcience of Hymen, that little more is to be acquired, and as there is few that has the advantage of ſuperior ſenſe but is deſirous of encreaſing their knowledge."

"Vain and oſtentatious, as it might appear in me, to attempt teaching you any thing, that is ſo much my ſuperior in all accompliſhments; but as it has been known that the brighteſt geniuſes has been obliged to the humbleſt authors for ſome of their moſt adul$\overset{a}{\wedge}$tered ſentences——as fine flowers often grow amongſt weeds, ſo poſſibly I might have it in my power to initiate you in an art, to you unknown before, at leaſt give me leave to try, and if I ſucceed not, ——or after one trial you approve not ——for ever diſcard me; which, as that is the greateſt misfortune fate can have in ſtore, you might judge of the exquiſiteneſs of the performance, by the ſeverity of the penalty inflicted in caſe of non-approbation. How can you ſubmit my love, to linger out an inſipid life in the arms of a man, who, all powerful as your charms are, treats you with the coldeſt indifference, whom uninterrupted poſſeſſion has deadened to all enjoyment.—It muſt not—cannot be!—By heavens it ſhall not be! While I, glowing with youthful blood, and warm deſire, languiſh,—nay dies for the extatic rapture, which none but you can give, and I return. Pardon the overflowings of a love ſick-mind,—pity him whom you can make ſuperlatively happy or miſerable, and who muſt be ever yours,

C——d."

To the above paſſionate epiſtle, her l—y—p thought proper to ſend the following gracious anſwer.

"Your grace is not, I find, to be laughed out of a favourite ſcheme eaſily, following the old adage, *faint heart never wins a fair lady.*——Poor thing, and ſo it almoſt ſmothered the paper with kiſſes.———Why I am frightened to think it uſed the innnocent ſcrawl ſo ill—What would have become of the author, had ſhe been there?—Indeed, my lord, if you are ſo violent, no lady will dare venture herſelf with you. ———Why now, here's my lord, as peaceful, manageable and delicate as Chloe:———gives me as little trouble, ———and as he knows my reſt is much broke in upon by faſhionable hours—never diſturbs it.——*A propos.*——I am angry with you,——the letter carrier you have made your own.——O gold, all powerful gold! A moſt prevailing advocate with a ſordid mind: the girl was ſo intoxicated with (I preſume) the ſhining traſh, and the conſequence the embaſſy ſhe was entruſted with had given her in her own mind, that her eyes gliſtened,——tongue ran,——and her whole frame had undergone ſuch a total metamorphoſes, that half an hour paſſed in encomiums upon ſmiles, dimples, and I cannot tell you what,—— ere the letter was produced,———and then with ſuch an inundation of chat, that it obliged me to diſcard her rather abruptly:——let this be a caution for the future,——for know, for the people of ſuch a ſtamp, it is ſufficient they are honoured with commands,——not to be exalted by condeſcenſions, which ſinks us to their converſation. Lady —— is juſt entered, who is the moſt tireſome of all creatures; handſome, and much followed in her youth, flattering herſelf that pleaſing time would paſs, ſhe coquetted—jilted—occaſioned pain to numbers, the reflexion of which is now real anguiſh to herſelf, as ſhe is the common ſpectre of every public place, practiſing the airs of fifteen at the age of forty-five,——accuſing mankind of inſtability for not dangling as uſual; making no allowance for thirty years difference,——what pity as Young ſays.

"We can't learn before we are told,
The melancholy news, that we grow old;"

"To Soho, ſhe goes this evening. A race never to be neglected, has carried my l——, who has left me like a turtle to mourn his abſence here alone, which to paſs in the leaſt irkſome way ſhall accompany her, when poſſibly the amuſements of that earthly paradiſe might mitigate the uneaſineſs his abſence might give me, for certainly he is the lovelieſt of all huſbands, and the moſt contented of all wives, is

Your's, &c.

G——r."

From the tenor of her l—y—p's letter, and the ironical ſtyle in which ſhe expreſſes the fondneſs of her huſband, may be conceived the love ſhe bore of his Grace of Cu———. Her letters to him during his abſence of ſix weeks, and in her lying-in, which happened at that period, I have alſo ſubjoined, taken from the originals themſelves.

Altho' much has been ſaid in the former part of this work, touching her l—y—p's ingratitude, not to mention her other ties to love the man whom providence had thought proper to allot for her huſband, viz. her children, whom duty and l—— G———'s unalterable affection for her, ſhould perſuaded her were his, yet as the three following letters accidentally fell lately into my hands, I thought I could not give the reader greater pleaſure than by inſerting them. They contain a better account of his r——l h———'s paſſion for l——y G———r, than otherwiſe could be given, and the ardour with which he expreſſes his love ſerves to ſhew, how little we remain maſters of ourſelves, under any infatuation whatever. As they were all written ſucceſſively, I have thought proper to place them in the ſame order.

Cruel Creature,

For what am I reſerved?— What crime, ſhocking to humanity, have I committed? That my penance is to be that of endleſs miſery—the day too ſhort for my diſtreſs is ſucceeded by the night only to encreaſe my grief!—I curſe the untowardneſs of my fate—and wiſh myſelf returned to duſt!— Of what unequal temper are we made! one hour hope, alluring hope, exalts us above our beings!—the next deſpair, with all its horid train, preſents itſelf to our tortured imaginations, and ſinks us down to nothing!—Oh—man, man, of what is it you are proud? When every day gives proofs of that inevitable fatality to which miſerable humanity is ſubject: as religion tells us *there is no repentance in the grave*, and as Hamlet ſays, *To be, or not to be, there's the queſtion?*—Gives the mind to dread of eternity, elſe how few,—how very few, would drag the load of life ſurrounded with diſappointment,—vexations,—and innumerable evils!—My very being is a burden—my warmth of temper makes me unable to bear with any tolerable degree of patience!—nor will I long ſuſtain it!—unleſs you ſmile!—Why did not fortune,—unkind goddeſs, place me in a ſtate where my happineſs might have been conſulted without cenſure!—Curſe upon her partiality in fixing me in a ſphere, where truth,—friendſhip,— nor any ſocial virtue or comfort dare enter !—O that you were ſome ſimple villager !—I would be a Corydon for your ſake, protect your harmleſs flock from the ravenous jaws of the wolf;—in the ſultry heat of day, when Sol blazes in the meridian, and all nature ſinks under his influence, I would conduct you to the ſhady grove where purling ſtreams ſoftly murmur ſympathy to love—there whilſt you languiſhingly recline upon a bank of camomile and violets, liſtening to the gentle touches of my flute, till balmy ſlumbers cloſe thoſe eyes which wanton cupids ſport ſo freely in, would I hang over you fondly viewing each artleſs beauty, replete with innocence and warm deſire, preſs thoſe lips with eager extacy, thanking the gods that gave you to my wiſhes, till raptures too viohard for mortal to ſuppreſs, awake my fair to love !—and me.—Permit not my emiſſary, to return without one word of comfort !—ſay, you deſpiſe me not ! —charity alone would endeavour to preſerve a life that is dependent upon us !—All lovely and benevolent as you are, let not me be the only object that experiences your cruelty !—Who would not accept of exiſtence, but to devote each hour of it to the adoration of your exalted merit !—My lord, I know, goes tomorrow to the race, and tho' the diſtance is not great, his return will not be expeditious, as he is never in any hurry to quit his favourite amuſement :—what a depravity of taſte, to prefer the company of jockies and ſharpers to the delicious banquet his fortunate ſtars have provided for him:——a banquet which kings would eſteem themſelves bleſſed to partake of, and which was he once to be deprived of, he would then better know how to eſtimate, as we are apt to love thoſe pleaſures which are unattainable, whilſt thoſe within our reach are neglected.—O! that providence would once put it in my power,—neither dogs,—horſes,—nor the whole race of womankind, with all their power, and charms united, ſhould ſhake my ſteady ſoul: for at all times, and in all places, I ſhould be for ever,

Your conſtant

C——s.

Divine Creature,

How ſhall I begin?—how find words adequate to the torments I endure, or the divine object that occaſions them? My bed, which has ever been that of peaceful ſlumbers, I now forſake, as it repreſents you; you my lovely tormenter, in the poſſeſſion of another—revelling in thoſe charms that might ſet the world at odds,—one whom the laws—cuſtoms—horrid cuſtom ſecures in quiet enjoyment of, which too often leſſens the value of the bleſſing. With what baneleſs inſipidity I entered the ball-room laſt night, replete with beauties of every denomination, and to every taſte; one with a well turned ſhape, pattern for the moſt curious ſtatuary to form his Venus from; another

ther with a laughing, loving eye, as if the little cupids kept their jubilee there; —whilſt a third by her tow'ring height and majeſtic gait ſeemed formed to ſway the ſeptre of the ſtate, and keep the world in awe;—at theſe, and many too numerous to recite, I gazed, and for the preſent moment pleaſed,—I talked—laughed—flattered——praiſed, the blooming dimpled cheek—roſy lip —ſnow-white ſkin,—the ſwelling neck ſeeking to be preſſed:——and rambled from fair to fair with an indifference not to be conceived;—but, when you appeared, ſomething more than mortal ſhone around me,—I viewed, with ſilent admiration, the maſter-piece of nature.—Whilſt you ſtood I was rivetted to the place,—when you moved my feet performed their office involuntary, but when you danced and touched my hand, a tremor ſeized my frame unknown before.—What ſhall I ſay?——I was unable to proceed,—retired into an inner room—where cold ſweats bedewed my face,——a trembling numbneſs chilled my blood;—my attendants, with difficulty, conducted me to my carriage, each expreſſing concern for my ſudden indiſpoſition:—alas! madam, did they know the anxious hours I have experienced ſince, the moſt unrelenting of my enemies would be induced to compaſſionate me. Like Cymon I grow ſenſible of my imperfections:—which flattery——deteſtable flattery (to which the ears of the great are too much inured, as truth——all ſacred truth is ſeldom permitted to approach us) had kept me ignorant of; I am diffident of every thing about and concerning me, moſt of not being pleaſing to you;—— I would change my form,——manner, ——nay every thing, was it in my option, could it be to your taſte,—— Colonel —— the avowed admirer of your ſenſible and ſententious friend, the counteſs, has uſed all his rhetorick to recover my peace of mind, by repreſenting to me the folly——the impoſſibility——the hazard;——but what is all the logic of all the ſchools to one in love:—one ſoft look undoes what they have been ages endeavouring to inſtil.——If my pen exceeds the bounds your ſtricker virtue preſcribes, blame your all powerful charms, which has ſo totally captivated the underſtanding of, ——— Your moſt devoted

C——d.

Dear Angel,

“Blame me not, angelic creature, that I again breathe forth my ardent affection——an affection that cannot end but with my life,——as life without you is not worth my accepting, ſince you have been ſo unkind as not to indulge me with one line, as reviving to my drooping ſpirits, as a reprieve to a condemned criminal. I have endeavoured by the parade and buſtle of the court (a place I ever diſliked, and which I ſhould never have frequented, had not nature and duty commanded my preſence) to divert my diſturbed mind——how vain the attempt!——the wound too deep to admit of any hand to adminiſter the balm, but the adorable authoreſs, to her I apply——and though her form beſpeaks charity and all its attributes, with an unpitying

tying eye——ſhe glories in my pain. Can Hymen, of which the poets make ſuch a pompous parade to take in fools, have any effect upon the charmer of my heart?—no—baniſh the thought—unworthy the nobleneſs of the object; his torch I grant ſometimes, before the gordion knot is tied, blazes with uncommon ardour; but afterwards, when expectation is no more——What a change!—it barely glimmers with a borrowed light. Can you—you my love—who are caſt in nature's ſofteſt mould—formed for raptures of the extatic kind—abuſe her moſt valued gifts by laviſhing them upon a dull phlegmatic huſband, who, from a long enjoyment and a certainty of your being his own, grows inſenſible of thoſe charms, which are the admiration of half the univerſe;

and which Jove would quit his native ſkies to be in poſſeſſion of?——Happy, thrice happy man! I would renounce rank——fortune——and every flattering variety of the great, to be claſped in thoſe arms——recline upon that neck——nor ſhould the enticements of the wanton————horſes————or races call me thence————

"But there forever—ever would I ſtay,
"And ſhew how well a lover could obey."

Let me not entreat in vain, for as you are the moſt lovely, ſo be the moſt exalted of your ſex; ſoar above the arts calculated for beauties of an inferior kind, embitter not the days of him whoſe felicity depends alone on you—bleſs him——and be bleſſed——retaliate the innumerable flights from the man who made choice of you for life, and was afterwards capable of being entertained by the allurements of a wanton. ——— Is it poſſible a few words——a piece of prieſt-craft, neceſſary only to ſecure eſtates, and prevent law-ſuits, can ſubdue——pride——reſentment——and greatneſs of ſoul?—no—it cannot be; I ſee the ſpark kindle in your eye——give it vent——its upon a noble cauſe—the cauſe of injured honour——broken vows——and unrequited love——love the nobleſt paſſion of the ſoul.———What mighty deeds has not been done for love——O! the enchanting extaſy of congenial minds——grant me but that ye gods———I aſk no more———refuſe me then your ſkies ——— by heavens the thought ſets my young blood on fire, and makes me more than man.——Of what can you be made that you can thus transform me at your will?——Lords of the creation —— a meer laughable empty title——when woman—charming woman controls us as ſhe pleaſes. No power on earth can contradict her will, ſhe lords it with ſuch a bewitching grace, that we ſmiling kiſs the hand of that which too often leads us to deſtruction, indulge me my fair with one line, that I might at leaſt kiſs the paper impreſſed with characters by the idol of my heart, whom time or accident can never eraſe, and whoſe name at his lateſt breath will hang warm upon the lips of her adorable

C———d."

L—— G———r could no longer reſiſt this temptation, but overjoyed at C———'s warm profeſſions of love, immediately ſent the following kind anſwer.

"I bluſh not to confeſs I am not abſolutely void of vanity, but have not quite ſo large a ſhare in my compoſition as to believe all the compliments your R——l H——ſs is pleaſed to amuſe yourſelf with; many of the unthinking part of my ſex would eſteem themſelves ſupremely bleſſed to have made (what they term) a conqueſt of one in your exalted ſphere of life, not ſo much from any tender impreſſions you might have made upon them, as the ambitious reflection of having one of the firſt rank in the kingdom their adorer, and, however little the knowledge of it might be for their reputation, would have experienced a reſtleſſneſs till the *beau monde* was apprized of their (ſelf-opinionated) conſequence. As difficulties are accounted to give an edge to paſſion, I readily conceive from the improbability of obtaining me, your g——race might employ an idle hour in planning how to ſubdue the numberleſs bars that impede your courſe, but as I am rather delicate in this particular,—as nothing can recommend itſelf to my notice, but love in its *refined ſtate*, the man I value more than the rank he bears in life.—I don't know how to perſuade myſelf you are capable of any violent attachment, or perſonal affection; conſtancy being no part of your character,—Hymen, being a male, I wonder not at his being ſuch an adept in the art of deceiving; before the indiſſoluble knot, his torch how bright!—how promiſing!——how flattering!——What vows?——What raptures?—O! what not;——but afterwards, how can I deſcribe the change! —the total change!—grant it does not happen inſtantly, it has its regular degrees:—firſt contradiction,—then careleſs neglect of things, which tho' trifles in themſelves; conſtitutes a large part of the matrimonial harmony!—then ſucceed indifference,—late hours and animoſities, which produce diſguſt with haſty ſtrides;—then hymen and all his laughing train of wanton cupids,—ſoft deſires,——gentle zephyrs,——and ardent ſighs, which ſo fully occupied the imagination, take wing and leave the deluded pair to wiſh for what is paſt, and dread the future. You ſee, tho' I have not been very long initiated into the ſecrets of the deceiving god, I am a tolerable proficient, and doubt not, if I improve as much in another year, but I ſhall be able to write a treatiſe, intitled, the "Arts and chicanery of Hymen laid open for the benefit of all ladies upon the brink of matrimony;"——but if huſbands are theſe ſtrange whimſical creatures, what ſecurity is there, that the reſt of the ſex does vary from them; ——tho' an odd bet, you are all the ſame. In ſhort, not to dwell upon a ſubject which is inexhauſtible, variety is the idol you adore!——the quinteſſence of your beings, deprive you of that, and you are mere inanimates; judge then, is it poſſible I could flatter myſelf with the hopes of perfecting a change in you, who are an avowed votary of Venus —has ranged through all her ſchools upon fancy's airy wing.—The method of conveying your letters is hazardous, —I would recommend an improvement,—miſtake me not.——I wiſh not a continuance of the correſpondence; —but leaſt your unruly paſſions ſhould intrude another,—let it be by the bearer of this, who is my milliner, and with French wares ever gains admittance without ſuſpicion;——but remember, I forbid it,—abſolutely forbid it;—not that I am under any apprehenſion of conſequences, as my affection and duty to my lord are founded upon the ſolid baſis of gratitude, which I am perſuaded no earthly power can ſhake whilſt there is vital heat in the heart of his ſincere and conſtant wife,

G——r.”

His Royal Highneſs having receiv-ed the preceding kind letter, was im-patient to know when he ſhould enjoy the happineſs of throwing himſelf at her feet, and expreſſing to her Ladyſhip in words, what he had with ſo much ardour inſinuated to her in his letters. This he had ſoon a favourable oppor-tunity of doing by means of Harriet, who brought the under-written conſo-latory epiſtle.

“ My dear Cum— is ſatisfied, and I am not diſpleaſed : —— I’ll take my death but you are a ſtrange agreeable creature ! My lord has often entertained me in our melancholy hours, which, by the bye, we have plenty of, with an odd jargon of ſympathy of ſouls! exquiſite feelings! delicate ſenſations!—which, lolling upon my ſopha in an indolent pick-tooth way, not comprehending one ſyllable—I humm'd—and ay'd too—but you have been ſo inſtructive a tutor, that I am more improved in one leſſon, than in the very many he has given me—fully feel the force of every argument he has made uſe of——and, woman-like, am ſo vain of my new acquired knowledge, that—what ſhall I ſay?—Would you would—ſave my bluſhes!—But as you don't ſee me, out it ſhall come:—That—I will take another leſſon at Mrs. Read's on Friday, for practice make good ſcholars you know—and I can never flatter myſelf to excel without it.——I got home time enough to dreſs for the opera——was in ſuch prodigious *gaitie de cœur*, that mamma, who was there, could not avoid taking notice of it——ſeemed curious into the cauſe, as a temper ſeldom conſpicuous in me, ſince being honoured with the hand of my lord. What I anſwered, I know not.—I danced—hummed an Italian air or two—played ſome of Arne's compoſitions out of Artaxerxes upon my harpſicord——and was, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, quite myſelf, as before Hymen ſhaked his torch over me.——Mamma laughed extremely—the Counteſs ſat as one aſtoniſhed at the prodigious contraſt, ariſing from the ſame cauſe.——Certainly the Colonel and ſhe were made for each other——

abſolutely caſt in the ſame mould—ſuch a ſimilarity of manners.—Don't you think they would perform Lady Grace and Mr. Manly, in the Provok'd Huſband, to admiration?—Imagine me Lady Townly—her grave face reproving me for my faſhionable manner of living—the Colonel making his formal bow, ſoberly adviſing for the regularities of families.—Ha! ha! ha! your thoughts of the horned cattle diverts me much!—How *a propos*, a cure for them.—Let me aſk, do you mean the head or the heart? For you have a knack of planting the former with protuberance, which I would wiſh no better entertainment to be concerned in. The latter, if my good lord had any feeling beyond his favourite dog or horſe being ſick, you would make feel, as he muſt know I can't be inſenſible to your ſuperior power of pleaſing ;—Beſides, was I but two degrees from ſtupid, as we can ſee nothing in the true light, but by compariſon, the contraſt is ſo palpable, that in the moſt minute articles it commands my obſervrtion. Judge how immenſe, in the eſſentials that conſtitutes the happineſs of life——think me not troubleſome in deſiring you would not be too generous or free to the girl, as her increaſe of tongue, and eaſineſs of carriage, can't long paſs unobſerved. Expect me not to write again——ſcrawling now will not do—I have wiſhes of a more tender kind, which only you can ſatisfy.——Opeed to-morrow.—A word to the wise is enough.—'Till then, adieu!

G——

C———'s impatience to ſee the idol of his heart, was too great to ſuffer him to wait 'till the hour of ſeeing her at the opera, the place where ſhe had appointed to meet him; he therefore, in order to anticipate his happineſs, returned the following anſwer, beſeeching the induſtrious chambermaid to uſe all her influence with her miſtreſs to comply with his deſires, preſenting her at the ſame time with the ſtrongeſt perſuaſive in nature, *viz.* gold, which entirely wedded her to his intereſt.

"My angel's deſires are commands to the man ſhe has more than bleſſed.—Come— wait not the opera hour—

haſten to him that doats upon your charms! Love is the deity that I adore ——upon his altar would I ſigh out my ardent wiſhes. O my life! recollection of paſt bliſs and expectation, exalts me to more than man! Your young emiſſary is an apt ſcholar——little encouragement is neceſſary. At the Colonel's giving her a ticket for the gallery at court, her eyes ſparkled, colour came, boſom roſe quick, and joy interrupted her tongue from performing its office, which at another time is pretty volatile. At my aſking her what pleaſure ſhe propoſed herſelf there? She, after ſome heſitation, told me not to ſee the ladies, many of thoſe ſhe ſaw daily at her miſtreſs's, who worked for moſt of the court, but the Lords—— the ſweet Lords!—— with their ſtars and garters! who looked ſo loving—— ſpoke ſo ſoft—— ſmelt ſo ſweet—— were always dreſt ſo fine, that ſhe wiſhed ſhe was a great lady to have one of them. That Lord C———— told her one day in his lady's dreſſing-room, ſhe was ſo pretty, he ſeldom ſlept for her, and when he did he dreamt of her; that if ſhe was cruel he ſhould die for her; that he wrote the prettieſt letters, and his hands were whiter and ſofter than hers; that ſhe hoped to have another Lord to love her to-night, as ſhe would be dreſſed; and ſhe had been told, they all looked up in the gallery, and ſhe was ſure ſhe was not ugly, as Lord C——— had told her ſo; and it would not do ſo fine a gentleman any good to tell her an untruth. We laughed heartily at the credulous ſimplicity of the little innocent; gave her a piece of money to purchaſe a cap for this intended conqueſt. No ſooner was her back turned, but the Colonel, with a very grave face, moralized as uſual upon the cruelty of Lord C——, in endeavouring to ruin an inſignificant of this kind, who, as ſoon as the hurry of paſſion had ſubdued, would be abandoned to all the miſery of proſtitution; as ſhe had no one thing to recommend her, when once deprived of her virtue. As he and I think very different in trifles of this ſort, in all probability he would have harangued (as it is one of his favourite topics) two hours, if I had not ſtopped him ſhort, with, How is the Counteſs? He ſtarted at the name, his cheek glowing with manly pride.—— Ah! my Lord, there's a woman! One who captivates the ſenſes, though her perſon is ſufficient to raiſe deſires in a hermit. That's her beſt charm,—ſhe has an underſtanding ſuperior to her ſex, inferior to few of ours, joined to a noble generoſity of ſoul. Being faultleſs herſelf, ſhe ſuſpects none in others; —then that ſoftneſs——that delicacy ——that——that — what ſhall I ſay? I am loſt in amaze!—But take it in the words of the poet, as I am unable to expreſs her excellence myſelf.

"O! ſhe's more than painting can expreſs,
"Or youthful poets fancy when they love."

Thus he went on——his whole frame agitated—whilſt I ſtood gazing at him with aſtoniſhment! Would you believe, to ſee theſe ſober gentry, they had one ſparks of fire in their compoſition. I confeſs I never ſuſpected they had, but I am now convinced they are not void of paſſions——deſires——and all the train of pleaſing imaginations that occupy the hours of the votaries of Idalia——hours ſo enchanting, that I have not a term to give them. But where am I rambling? Diſappoint me not, my dear L——let us not be niggards in love, but to improve the preſent moment * * * * * * * * * * * Then laugh at prudiſh mortals, who, by their fuſty morals, loſe the moſt delicious banquet human nature is capable of. Fly ſwift, ye hours! and bring my adorable to the arms of the moſt happy and conſtant

C——d."

Her L——p, pleaſed at the eagerneſs with which his R—— H—— deſired to ſee her, out of kind compliance to him, dreſſed immediately and went——not to the opera——but to the milliner's, who, having previouſly received her inſtructions, had provided every thing neceſſary for the reception of the two lovers. After having paſſed the night in the moſt agreeable manner together, day-light moſt unwelcomely broke in upon their joys, and they were forced to part. L—— G——, by good fortune, had not been at home all night, ſo that her L——p had not the leaſt reaſon to apprehend a diſcovery. She went to bed as ſoon as ſhe came home, pretending ſhe was tired with dancing during the whole night at Lady H——'s. and wanted reſt.

As ſoon as ſhe awoke, ſhe was agreeably ſurprized with the under-written lines from her lover.

" Let that night be ſeparated from the year——let it be ever kept ſacred—let feſtivity ever diſtinguiſh it, that gave my adorable angel to my arms!——My ſoul's diſſolved in tenderneſs!——I could play the woman, ſo effectually has love and admiration taken poſſeſſion of every faculty. O! my more than charmer! the gentle murmur of love ſtill ſounds in my ears! the half-expiring kiſs hangs warm upon my lips, and reproaches me with being ſlow to my bliſs!——forever could I liſten to the muſic of that tongue! —— forever gape with ſilent rapture upon thoſe eyes overflowing with as before I was pained with expectation, counting the tedious moments till the hour of my promiſed joys arrived.——Now I am anxious for your avoiding ſuſpicions at home——not for myſelf, my fair, as nothing can hurt the man enriched with your ſmiles.——The Colonel is now at my elbow, talking of his miſtreſs with the compoſure of a privy counſellor——and by the ſolemnity of his countenance, you would imagine he was forming plans for new members when the parliament is diſſolved, or a cure for the horned cattle, inſtead of being abſorbed in thought upon the contemplation of his Counteſs; whoſe charms, great as they might be accounted, ſerves but as foils to your's.——Heavens! the reflection ſwiftens the circulation of my blood, ſets my young heart a panting, which beats the alarm to love! O! my—— what name!——what term ſhall I give you?——adequate to the exquiſite tranſports you alone can give!——too much for human nature!——How did you get home?——No cold—no ſuſpicions! ——write—write me all—the moſt minuteſt circumſtance concerning you is material to me;——'tis ſufficient it comes from you, to ſtamp a value!— Each word, each look, each ſmile, eſcapes not me——each has a charm to rivet me the faſter!——Almighty Jove——hear a mortal's prayer!—— Let me be poor—diſtreſſed— ſtripped of my worldly honours!——grant me but her and health, and I ſhall be content!——When, my adorable! *tell* *me when I*——Let me not af—— present your conſtant.

C——d."

Having thus far treſpaſſed on the reader's patience, by the inſertion of the preceding letters, we ſhall now proceed regularly in the narrative, beginning with a letter wrote to her L——p, from Portland Road, a fortnight after his R—— H——'s departure from London.

Portland Road, Saturday June 13.

"My ever deareſt little angel, the wind to day is not fair, ſo I ſhall lie in Portland Road till it is, and take this precious moment in ſending this other note to you; I hope it will find you well, and that you are not afraid of being gone out of town before I return back to you; thou lovelieſt deareſt ſoul, I have been reading, ſince my laſt note of yeſterday to you, a great deal out of Prior, keeping the Heroine bye till I have read quite through, and find many things in it to correſpond with us exactly.

"Hear ſolemn Jove, and conſcious Venus hear;
"And thou bright maid, believe me, whilſt I
ſwear,
"No time, no change, no future flame ſhall
move
"The well-plac'd baſis of my laſting love."

Do not think I wanted this book with me to tell me how well I loved you, you know the very feelings of my heart, yet it is great pleaſure when I am reading to find ſuch paſſages that coincide with my own ideas of *dear* you; I will write conſtantly, it is my only entertainment: that and hearing from you will be, excepting my duty on board, the only thought or employment I ſhall have, or even wiſh. I have juſt now had a meſſage from ſhore, it is but two miles from Weymouth, to go to the rooms this morning; I have excuſed myſelf, being quieter on board, and happier in writing to you; you are not there, or elſe the boat that ſhould carry me would go too ſlow. I long for that happy moment that brings me back again to all that I love, to all that I adore.—Indeed I am ſorry my letters are ſo ſtupid; pray write to me, you know whether to ſend to D———, or to Mrs. Reda.—I long to hear from you—it is now within two days of a fortnight—indeed it ſeems forty thouſand years. How happy when we meet, that our letters has opened to each other the very feelings of our honeſt hearts—Permit me to *name your*'s with mine, then they will be words and happy looks from two of the moſt ſincere friends alive; your heart is well, although fluttered, while I write to you; I hope mine is fluttered too, they ought to have the ſame emotions—I know they have, they are above diſſembling. I muſt now conclude. God bleſs you, I ſend you ten thouſand kiſſes: Pray, when you receive this, return them to me, for I want them ſadly.

Adieu, Je vous aime adorable petite creature, je vous adore ma chere petite bejoux l'amant de moncoeur.—

God bleſs you, I will write conſtantly."

Directed to L—— G——.

His R—— H—— being arrived at London, nothing could equal the joy that filled L—— G——r's heart on the occaſion: and what ſerved to increaſe their mutual happineſs, was, that his L——p was gone into the country, which afforded the lovers numberleſs opportunities of being together.

In one of their aſſignations they agreed to take a ride to Kenſington one afternoon, and paſſing through Hyde Park, an ox, which accidentally got in there, running furiouſly againſt her L——p's horſe, wounded him with his horns; the horſe threw his rider immediately, and galloped away. Her L——p's ſhrieks were the firſt notice G——d had of her danger. The ox having gored the horſe, as above related, ran at L—— G—— with his horns, as if he meant to toſs her; his R—— H—— drew his ſword, ran to the beautiful diſtreſſed G——, juſt as the ox was ſtopping to puſh her with his horns, and armed as he was with love and rage, had the happy dexterity to pierce him through the body; and, as if it were but one motion, at the ſame inſtant he diſengaged L—— G——r, who lay ſo unhappily expoſed, that the beaſt, in falling down dead, as he did in an inſtant, had ſhe not been removed, muſt have cruſhed her with his weight.

His R——— H———'s joy in ſaving the life of the woman he adored, was extreme; He threw himſelf on his knees by her, where raiſing her fair perſon into his arms, he had not at firſt the power of words to inquire her condition, 'till after ſome time, when he had repayed himſelf for the pains he had taken with ſo many evident repeated kiſſes and embraces, as brought back to that lovely Lady ſome degree of ſtrength, which ſhe employed to reſcue herſelf from thoſe tender efforts of love and tranſport; a native principle of ambitious vanity prevailed, even over her gratitude and inclination, ſo that feebly repelling him, ſhe ſaid, "Is it thus, my Lord, your H———s ſhews your love? Bruiſed and freightened as I am, this condition of mine can ſure be no motive for ſuch endearments: If it be compaſſion, if it be joy, take another way of expreſſing it, a way in which I may have a ſhare without offence to decency."——

"You live! You breathe! You ſpeak! adored L—— G——!" cried out his R—— H——ſs, "Oh! Is it poſſible that theſe things can be, after the danger we have paſſed, and I not run wild with profuſeneſs of rapture; I who have loved ſince I firſt beheld you, but never before had ſo good an opportunity of ſhewing it, that like a true and ardent lover, value nothing in compariſon of you; be not diſpleaſed, fair G——, that I receive thy happineſs with the ragings of a youthful heart, glowing with deſire and delight."

"Do you love me ſo much, my Lord," anſwered the equally tranſported G—, "Am I ſo bleſſed? Oh! balm to all my ſufferings! Oh! only happineſs! The pleaſing return of my hourly adorations to Cytherea, and her irreſiſtable ſon! Yes, my deareſt C—d, I have long, long deſired it ſhould be thus, but never durſt preſume to hope it: That awful diſtance in our quality, that real merit abſtracted from your birth, forbad me to aſpire after the ſo much rivalled poſſeſſion of ſo many excellencies! Speak again, confirm what your R— H— has lately ſaid, make me all your's, make me rich without reſerve! The mighty cordial raiſes me from the grave: This, this only could have reſtored me, mortified as I am by pain, and amazed at the danger from which you have reſcued me."

"Forbear!" anſwered his R—— H——, "You pain me with exceſs of pleaſure; I am wound up to that pitch, nature can bear no more; I can't endure to be beloved; 'tis impoſſible to hear G—— tell me ſhe is mine, and I calmly live to hear her—theſe convulſive graſpings—theſe bliſsful agonies—can beſt explain my agitations.—Oh! powerful fair—— thus reſting on thy fragrant boſom, let me pauſe upon my happineſs—let me make a truce with extaſies too racking and too exquiſite for frail humanity, whoſe brittle frame o'er fraught with joy, ſinks on thy lovely breaſt, and dies within thy arms reſiſtleſs."——

L—— G———r exerted her utmoſt ſtrength in her turn to ſupport her lover, who for ſome moments was ſo overcome by paſſion, that he was no longer ſenſible: at length they both recovered the power of kneeling, when his r——— h———, invoking each propitious power, ſwore unalterable love, and exchanged with her his vows, never to love another.

Thus happily engaged by mutual love and mutual promiſes, they were ſuddenly met by a party of guards, who paſſed thro' the park as they were going to Kenſington. The lovers immediately quitted their kneeling poſture, and walked forwards. C———d diſpatched two of the ſoldiers to Piccadilly to hire a chaiſe, while the officer who commanded, told his r—— h——, that they had ſeen a horſe, which from his furniture, appeared to belong to one of the r—— f——y. To this C——d anſwered, that, taking an airing in the park, he had ſeen l—— G——— on horſe-back riding alone, that ſoon after, her horſe taking fright had thrown her, and that her l——p had received ſome hurt in her fall; that ſeeing her diſtreſs he had quitted his horſe inſtantly, and flown to her aſſiſtance.———Soon after this, the chaiſe arrived, in which he placed l—— G———r, who was ſo bruiſed by what ſhe had undergone (when love called not upon her to exert her force) that ſhe had ſcarce the power of removing. C———, who took the late fatigue for a pretence, placed himſelf by her, and in that manner they returned to the milliner's. A lady made up of ſuch nice compounds as l—— G——, could not be ſuppoſed to mind, what ſhe called the drudgery of her ſex, duty to her huſband, education of children, the oeconomy of the family. The firſt obeyed her, the ſecond were left to themſelves, and the laſt wholly neglected by her. She therefore embraced every opportunity of either ſeeing or writing to his r—— h——. An unlucky accident however happened, which had like to have given l——d G—— a perfect conviction of what he as yet had but a ſuſpicion of.

Her l——p had received a letter from her enamerato one day while ſhe was in the garden, which after ſhe had read, ſhe put carefully (as ſhe thought) into her pocket, but miſſing her pocket-hole, it ſlipped down unperceived by her on the ground; ſhe, ignorant of what had happened, immediately retired to her apartment, where feeling for the letter, intending to read it a ſecond time, to her inexpreſſible diſappointment found it was not there. She went towards the garden immediately, with a mind filled with the moſt dreadful apprehenſions, leſt her l——d ſhould have found it, when behold ſhe perceived him pick up a paper, read it, and with a moſt angry countenance fold it up, and put it in his pocket. She ran to her bed-chamber, locked herſelf in, and pretended a ſudden illneſs: ſhe overheard l—— G———— order his man to go to her mother's houſe with his compliments, intimating his earneſt deſire to ſee her on the moſt important buſineſs. The ſervant returned telling his l——p, that l—— G——'s mama waited his coming, upon which he ordered his chariot and drove to her houſe. The reſult of his viſit was the ſubject of a letter wrote by her l—y—p to his r——l h—— two days after the above fatal event, in the following words.

"My good fortune Sir, has prevented a moſt fatal accident: your laſt letter fell into his l———p's hands, and he communicated it to my mother, who had no ſooner read it, than, with a prudence and foreſight peculiar to herſelf, ſhe told his l———p that it was certainly intended for one of the ſervant maids, with which excuſe he ſeemed contented and departed. My mama immediately ſent for me, and taxed me with infidelity, but at the ſame time promiſed ſhe would never diſcover nothing if I would vow an eternal reformation. You may be certain I did not heſitate; but for the ſake of all that is dear to me, be cautious for the future. I will be in —— ſtreet at twelve to-morrow preciſely. Sally will tell you the reaſon of my being able to make this appointment.

Your own
G———."

C———d had no ſooner received her l—y—p's laſt letter than he reſolved to comply with her requeſt, and the next day he prepared to put his deſign in execution, when he was prevented by a

prerermptory

preremptory order to attend at court. The grief with which this ſtroke of adverſe fortune affected him, is ſufficiently explained in the underwritten epiſtle, which he diſpatched to l—— G——— (knowing her l—d to be from home) by his truſty valet.

Tueſday noon.

"My dear madam,

"If I could not have the happineſs of ſeeing you yeſterday, it muſt not be attributed to any deſigned neglect on my ſide, but to the indiſpenſible obligation I was under of attending a council, which was held preciſely at the hour which you were obliging enough to fix on, and which I had not ten minutes previous notice, *** ****. If you can make it convenient to be at the ſtar and garter at Chelſea, to-morrow, at four o'clock, you will moſt aſſuredly find me there; but if any thing ſhould happen to prevent your attendance, you may be aſſured that I ſhall put the moſt favourable conſtruction on the matter, and regretting only the loſs of your ſweet company, think nothing of the time I may ſpend there in the hope of enjoying it; for I am, madam, with the moſt perfect and inviolable attachment,

Eternally your's,

C——d."

The lovers met at the time appointed, and enjoyed all the happineſs they could hope from each others company. It was pretty late ere they parted, and her l——p had the good fortune not to be known by her l——d to be out. At this meeting it was reſolved for greater ſecurity to intruſt their letters and meſſages to the honourable Miſs Carolina V———n her l——p's ſiſter, who, innocent of their contents, and eager to oblige her ſiſter whom ſhe tenderly loved, joyfully accepted the commiſſion, and their correſpondence was by her means carried on with greater ſecurity, as the following letter ſhews.

Thurſday night.

"How do you do my dear little ſweet Carry, I do long to ſee you, and hope ſoon to hear from you again at Mrs H———. I believe we don't ſet out for there till Wedneſday, but if any letters comes for me to her, ſhe will take care of it till I come. My l——d went yeſterday to Halkin Hollywell, &c, and ſtays till to-morrow dinner; he left Mr. G———r with me, but as he went our for an hour, I ſeized this favourable opportunity to write, I do love writing to my dear Carry, its a great pleaſure in abſence from thoſe one loves. I hope my dear love you are well. I ſee Almacks begins the firſt of December, wou'd to good fortune we were all going together. Well I hope there will not many paſs firſt, for I ſee, thanks to good fortune, the parliament meets the 9th of January; ſo I am living on the hopes of coming before them—they are all peſtering me to come to ſupper, G—d cur-e them, I wiſh them at Jerrico, firſt one peeping their head in, then the other, and Mr. G——r ſits up taking ſnuff in my bedchamber comme ſe qui conte. I'll finiſh my ſtupid letter, I propoſe you a much longer ſoon—I hope you amuſe yourſelf well in London—poor little Carry I do love you dearly—did you get my letter ſafe after Hollywell, I hope ſo—will you my love be ſo kind to let me trouble you to ſend the incloſed—I expect my friends the ſecond of December—will you write a line by them my love—I always burn your letters immediately as ſafe as a thief in a mill——he has never once named my friend and is in a tolerable humour. Tom lives and dies with him, odd people drop in, and I now and then play a game at cards, if you ſhould ſee Billy you may juſt give him a hint (if quite convenient) not to name my friend if he writes—but a diſmal life I have here *dear heart, dear heart what a troubled life do I lead*, I may well ſing that ſong and often.——

“They are bawling about ſupper, ſo farewell; I'm aſhamed of my letter—the devil take them; I'll write a long one ſoon; dear little dear Carry, a thouſand times farewell, *a thouſand times the worſe to want thy light.* I die to ſee you my deareſt friend and ſiſter ever with ſincereſt truth and affection.

“Yours, H. G.”

“What a deal of talk ſhall we have when we meet, I never ſhall have done.”

The above letter, and that directed to the D. of C—— alluded to therein, were incloſed in a cover directed to T——s G——r, Eſq. as follows:

"*To the honorable Miſs V——n at St. James's palace London.*"

Friday night.

"My deareſt ſoul,

"How happy you made me by your letter. It ſeems ages to me ſince I heard from you, tho' in reality not many days, but minutes count for years with thoſe that love, but I dont like to hear that you have ſtill a little cough, you don't take care of yourſelf. I wiſh I could take care of you indeed.——He went out yeſterday to Halkin and Holywell, and don't return till to-morrow dinner, he left Mr. G——r and three or four people with me who are gone, and Mr. G—— is juſt gone out for an hour, ſo I take this favourable time to write to you, and ſhall ſend it off ſoon in the morning. I long moſt heartly for the time I ſhall ſee you again. Your letter came perfectly ſafe, where I ſent you the account of Hollywell—only think of your having loſt your road to Tarpolly, I ſhould have been ſo miſerable if I'd known it at the time, I'm ſo ſorry—how dreadful at that time of night; its a terrible intricate road. I'd a very odd diſcourſe with Mr. G—— to day about my lord, he firſt begun by ſaying he was very uneaſy about his health, and did not think he was ſo well as he uſed to be, and he ought to take great care; he after ſaid, he thought he gave up his whole time, health, and fortune to horſes, and was worſe and worſe infatuated about them, and that he never could talk upon any other ſubject; therefore, he never could have any diſcourſe with him; and that he would looſe all his acquaintance but jockeys. I could not help laughing at his diſcription of him, which was very juſt; for ſays he, he will ſit for half an hour with his eyes fixed on a table or a chair, and then apply to Tom or any body that is by, Do you know what mare ſuch a filly was out of, or can you tell what horſe ſuch a colt was got by, by G—d I've got the beſt ſteeds in England, no body will have any horſes to run but me very ſoon? Then if he or any body that don't underſtand that ſubject, offers to mention any thing elſe, he is as croſs as any thing for half an hour, and then faſt aſleep. So ſays Mr. G—, you ſee no body ever comes to ſee him but in parties; I never do ſays he, I always get people to come every day to meet me, or elſe I know my amuſements would be to ſee him ſnoring in one corner of the room, inſtead of being ſociable and like other people."

"This was, you may imagine *a tete a tete* ſubject, but its ſo exact a picture of him, I was reſolved you ſhould have it.——I'll tell you how I paſs my time: I get up about eight, or, I am afraid nine, breakfaſt at ten, then walk or ride, dine at three, ſtupify, or play at ſtupid cards after tea with any body that drops in (he never plays), this laſts till ſupper; but I now and then ſteal off; we ſup ſoon after nine, and in bed before eleven, where I always dream of you my deareſt friend."——

"I hope ſoon to have a letter from Carry, with ſome writing from you in milk, I fancy we ſhan't go to Mrs. H— till Wedneſday, when I ſhall hope for a letter from you, if it arrives before me, it will be ſafe, as I'd a letter to ſay if any came from Carry they ſhould be taken care of. I imagine we ſhan't come away till quite the end of the week, and ſhall then be ſo happy in the thoughts of ſeeing you in a few days. How I long for the firſt and ſecond of December, and yet it is being too ſelfiſh, for what a ſituation for you, but I'll ſay no more of that, as you are ſo kind to ſay you don't mind it. To day is my birth day, I think it has turned out quite lucky to me as I've ſuch an opportunity of writing to you.

“ Mr. G——r is come home which obliges me to ſhorten my letter, and vexes me though I have nothing but nonſenſe to talk of——I don’t like to be interrupted and prevented, and I muſt write to Carry a line, as I incloſe this to her: I ſee Almacks begins the 1ſt. of Dec. do but take a dance there and tell me how it looks, it will make but two days difference, and I cannot bear to prevent you from every thing: O dear, I am always a teazing you, I think, I am quite provoked at myſelf —I wiſh to God I was the only one to ſuffer in an uncomforable ſituation, and I would bear every thing with pleaſure, but the thoughts of my deareſt friend being unhappy is ten times more to me than any thing I could ever ſuffer—indeed, my deareſt life it is, believe me, that it is my greateſt anxiety and concern I can never make you amends, but my ſincereſt love you ſhall always have from the bottom of my ſoul, that you are kind enough to ſay you value, and as long as you eſteem it, and give me yours, it will be our mutual comfort. God bleſs you my deareſt ſoul——I am glad the time is fixed for the parliament meeting, which I hope will bring us to town, farewel a thouſand times moſt ſincerely till we meet,

My deareſt ſoul,
Ever moſt faithfully, and
Affectionately your's,
H———."

"I'll write Carry a letter and then go to Mr. G———, I'm happy in keeping my own room. Deareſt ſoul adieu, au revoir, I'll write from Mrs. H—— and tell you when we return here."

The above letter was incloſed in a cover directed to the d—— of C——. In one of the folds of the cover was wrote, "Thurſday night, I believe I ſaid Friday by miſtake in the letter."

Wedneſday.

"Deareſt of Creatures!

"The favour your company yeſterday I ought to acknowledge with the utmoſt gratititude. I do acknowledge it, and I recal the idea of the happy moments we paſſed together, with a rapture which none but the moſt ſincere of lovers can be capable of feeling. I know your engagements for this evening,

ing, and you know the principal reaſon which prevents my being at the ſame place. To-morrow at ſix o'clock I'm engaged with you know whom, to go to Woolwich, to ſee the launch of a new ſeventy-four gun ſhip. Alas! I had rather be witneſs to another kind—pardon me, my dear l——y, you know the ſincerity of my attachment, and I need not tell you that I am,

Unalterably your's,

C——d."

The morning after the receipt of the above, her l—y—p was favoured with the following card.

"Yeſterday was a day of perfect debauchery. Alas! what a contraſt did it afford to the moments of rapture! At ten o'clock this evening my truſty fellow will be at your l——p's door, and conduct you with all proper precaution to my arms. I know how his l——p has engaged himſelf, ſo that you have nothing to fear."

"My dear Sir!

"Allow me to call you by that tender name, ſince our acquaintance, now is, or ought to be eſtabliſhed on ſo firm a baſis, as to baniſh all diſtinctions. You know how dear you are to me: you know alſo that it is time for me to conſider myſelf as one who has ſome claim to your affectionate regard. Indeed I have no doubt but I am beloved by you; and in this confidence, I have bid adieu to all thoſe conſiderations which would have had weight with the majority of my ſex. It is not probable that I ſhall have the happineſs of your company for ſix weeks at leaſt. Oh! what a tedious time! We are going to our ſeat in ——ſhire, from whence, I believe, we ſhall not return 'till after Chriſtmas holidays. If any method could be deviſed, by which I could ſafely correſpond with you, it would be ſome alleviation to the diſtreſs which I muſt ſuffer by my abſence from the man whom I hold moſt dear, from the man who is indeed the prince of my affections.

G——r."

His r—— h———— having read the foregoing lines, obliged the meſſenger to ſtay while he wrote the ſubſequent anſwer.

"Angel of a Woman!

"Your laſt obliging letter has at once given me more pain, and afforded me more ſatisfaction, than all the preceding. The thought of loſing you for ſix weeks torments me beyond deſcription, while the aſſurance you give of the ſincerity and conſtancy of your regard ſerves as a healing balm to the wound. I flatter myſelf there will be no difficulty in our maintaining a correſpondence, that ſhall not be even ſubject to ſuſpicion. The village of ——— is within two miles of your ſeat; the landlord of the white bear at that place was formerly in the ſea-ſervice, and he now enjoys the benefit of half-pay through my mediation, ſo that he is devoted to my ſervice, and I will inſtantly take ſuch meaſures that your letters may be ſafely left with him, and I will engage that he ſhall deliver mine in return into the hands of the faithful girl, whom your l—y—p has ſo often truſted. But I flatter myſelf that a mutual correſpondence will not be all. I can eaſily ſteal to —— in the dead of the night, and if your l—y—p can prevail on yourſelf to walk unattended to that village, I ſee no reaſon why I may not have the happineſs of throwing myſelf at your feet any morning when his l——p is engaged with a hunting party. Think of this ſcheme, and favour me with an anſwer before you leave London.——In all events believe me unchangeably,

Your's, C————d.

To this letter her l—y—p returned the following card.

"I have juſt received your h——'s letter. I thank you for the hint; the place is not more than a mile from the extremity of the park; I can eaſily ſteal thither; his l——p hunts Tueſdays and Saturdays; take your meaſures accordingly."

Two days after the ſending of the above card l——d and l——y G——— ſet out for their country ſeat at ——— in ———ſhire, from whence her l——p took the very firſt opportunity of diſpatching the underwritten letter to his r——l h———ſs.

——— in ———ſhire, Oct. 30.

“ I had ſcarcely prevailed on myſelf to hear the conſolations which my woman offered on the miſery of my being dragged to this place, when I received your r——l h——ſs's letter by the hands of the landlord of the red-lyon, who, I believe, is a man that may be truſted. To prevent however all poſſibility of any accident, which might happen from your letters being conveyed through this channel, I beg that in future, your r——l h——ſs will direct, *To Miſs Anne Robinſon, to be left at the poſt-office, in ——— till called for.* By this means all ſearch will be eluded, and every attempt towards a diſcovery rendered wholly fruitleſs. The clergyman whom you recommended to my l——d is greatly in favour, and I am in hopes may be made uſeful.

Your's, your's truly."

The above letter was not ſubſcribed by her l—y—p, conformable to the precautionary ſteps mentioned in the letter, to prevent even the leaſt ſhadow of a diſcovery.

The d—— of C———d had no ſooner read the contents than, unable to contain the joy he felt within him, or conquer the ſtrong inclination he had of giving her the moſt pregnant proof in his power of the great love he bore, he determined to ſend her an immediate anſwer, which he did in the following words:

"My ſweet Angel!

"It is not in the power of language to expreſs the ardent deſire I have of proſtrating myſelf at your feet. Every moment of your abſence I eſteem an age; and if your brute of a l——d does not ſoon take a reſolution of coming to London, I ſhall certainly take that of viſiting your ſeat in the country. Your l——p would think this an impolitic ſtep, but be not alarmed: if it ſhould be neceſſary, depend on my prudence and management for finding an excuſe for the viſit, which might paſs on a wiſer man than your l——d;———curſe on the word! I am tormented to think that there ſhould be any legal obſtruction to the full gratification of our wiſhes: for I am with the ſincereſt, moſt ardent, and moſt perſevering paſſion,

Your truly affectionate,

truly devoted ſervant,

C——d."

His r——l h——ſs was as good as his word, for thinking her ſtay in the country too tedious, he reſolved to follow her thither. Putting on therefore the diſguiſe of a country gentleman, he took a poſt chaiſe, and without making any ſtop on the road, he arrived at the village contiguous to her country ſeat, and immediately ſent a meſſage that he was come, and begged to have the pleaſure of her company, if convenient, that evening.

L—— L—— G—— was in an extaſy at this meſſage, and her h——d being gone to pay a viſit at a neighbouring gentleman's houſe, where he was to ſtay a week, ſhe had now the fineſt opportunity of enjoying an interview with the man whom ſhe ſo much adored: reſolved to gratify her paſſion, ſhe dreſſed herſelf in the habit of a country girl, her ſiſter being only privy to the plot, and who alone attended her: in this manner ſhe went to the red lyon aforementioned, where ſhe learned, that the d—— of C——d, imagining an inn an improper place for her reception, had hired a ſmall houſe hard by, where he waited her coming with the utmoſt impatience.

The building to which her L——p had retired, though ſmall, carried with it a noble air; the garden was large, and finely laid out, the advantages of nature appeared to be improved by all the elegance of art; the wood that ſurrounded it, and the clear ſprings that watered it, beſtowed a conſtant coolneſs and verdure, ſo that there were flowers in ſucceſſion all the ſeaſons. The blooming treaſures of nature which were to be ſeen there, might have been conſidered as the remains of a ſtate of innocence. To how unworthy a purpoſe was this enchanting habitation made ſubſervient!

I ſhall not take up the reader's time with a florid deſcription of what paſſed between her l—y—p and the d—— of C———d. It may be eaſily ſuppoſed how happy they were in each others company: I ſhall therefore in few words explain how l——d G———r was made acquainted with the lovers which was by a letter he received from an unknown hand, and is as follows:

“ If you have a mind to ſee your wife go off with her gallant, place yourſelf at K—g's garden door at a little before eight, and you will ſee her and her little ſiſter go with him to his own back door a little way off, and ſo return the ſame way at half an hour after nine, if you are fool enough to diſcover this information or not to be thankful for it, you ſhall have no more, that's all at preſent from your humble ſervant,

Jack Spratt."

Directed to L—— G——.

His l——p, as has been already obſerved, was at a neighbouring gentleman's houſe when he received the above letter. It is eaſy to form an idea of the emotions of his mind on reading it. His heart was rent with grief at the contents, as well as with the indignation againſt the guilty pair. He ſtormed, he raved, he tore his hair, and appeared perfectly out of his ſenſes. He thanked the unknown author of this diſcovery a thouſand times, and congratulated himſelf that he had it now in his power to be a witneſs of what he ſo much dreaded to know the truth. He followed the inſtructions his unknown friend had given him in his letter to a tittle, but they proved for that time of very little ſervice; for the lovers fearing that too frequent aſſignations might expoſe them to the danger of being diſcovered, notwithſtanding all their precautions, they purpoſely let ſlip ſome opportunities of ſeeing each other, as happened that night his l——p intended to watch them.

Soon after l——d G—— was favoured with another epiſtle from the ſame unknown friend, conceived in the following terms.

"I know you did as I inſtructed you to do ſome time ago, concerning the garden gate, but they were alarmed and made their eſcape ſome other way to their married ſiſter's. The little devil is in all the ſchemes, and goes into the garden with them over againſt your windows, continually playing fine pranks under your noſe. I dare ſay they will meet there to-morrow evening——K—— P—— in the morning (where no ſervant is allowed to follow) is the conſtant practice. As you did not diſcover my firſt intelligence I ſhall give it to you till you do, from your unknown friend,

Jack Sprat."

"*Directed, to l——d G——r, G—— Sq——re.*"

It will not be amiſs to give ſome account in this place, of the perſon who ſigned himſelf *Jack Sprat* in the laſt mentioned letters ſent to his l——p by an unknown hand, during his abſence from home.

It has been already obſerved in the former volume of this work, that l—d G———'s ſteward or *maitre d'Hotel*, a wiſe, ſedate, grave, ſober man, who had lived many years in the family, and who could not bear to ſee the indignity which his l———d's honour ſuffered, from the criminal intercourſe which paſſed between her l——p and the d——— of C———, was reſolved to take every opportunity of detecting her, and informing his l——d in the moſt ſecret manner imaginable. To this end he made uſe of all the ſtratagem's his honeſt artifice ſuggeſted to him, to trace out all her l——p's proceedings, and make l—— G—— privy to them.

He procured therefore a country fellow, who could juſt ſcrawl ſufficient to write his own name, to pen the above-mentioned letters, for which he gave a ſmall gratuity; and it was owing to this contrivance, that his l——p became acquainted with the intrigue carried on between the lovers during the receſs of the family in the country. This made l—— G—— redouble his vigilence over her l——p's conduct, as has, and will ſhortly appear from ſome letters between her ſiſter and her, and likewiſe from the undermentioned incloſed in that directed to Miſs V——n. His l——p, however, notwithſtanding he ſo much miſtruſted his wife's fidelity, had too much politeneſs to inſpect theſe letters which ſhe ſent to her own relations.

"Eaton, Monday night."

"My deareſt ſiſter,"

"How do you do—I do long to hear from you—I go to town on Wedneſday, and ſhall be very happy if I find a letter from you—we ſhall leave it again on Friday— I hope you received my laſt ſafe—I have been a little alarmed by my maid having told me it has got a little about here, that he has been in this part of the world—I've but a few minutes to write in, as my l—d is at home, but was determined to let them know immediately, and ſhould take it as a great favour my love if you would forward it as ſoon as poſſible, as its neceſſary on ſome accounts to inform them as ſoon as poſſible--upon account of the intended viſit; I hope to God this letter will get ſafe to you: I thank God my dear Carry, that I am like to ſee you before it's very long, as my l—d ſays he will certainly be up by the meeting of parliament—I pray God we may, as I know the day I'll ſend you word, I'll warrant me.——What a vaſt deal of talk we ſhall have.— I'm all in a twitter, dreading every moment he ſhould come in; ſo dare ſay it would betray all, and undo us—he has never named their names, ſo all ſeems quiet— I pray God to keep it ſo —I don't fancy he has heard any thing —God bleſs you, my dear Carry, I love you ſincerely, and I wiſh I could write more, but dare not; I'm dying with fright, ſo adieu my dear little ſoul, I'll write ſoon—ever with the ſincereſt affection."

Yours, H. G.

"I hope you've had ſome diverſion, my love—I deſired they would write me an anſwer as ſoon as poſible in lemon juice, if you would permit it and incloſe it."

The foregoing letter, and the following, for the D—— of C——, without any ſuperſcription, were incloſed in a cover, directed by L—— G—— (who was entirely ignorant of the contents of either) as follows:

"——G

To the honourable Miſs K———e
maid of honour, St. James's ———
London.

“ O my dear, and thrice dear,

“ I have but this minute received your letter, and cannot looſe a moment in anſwering it; for heavens ſake think not of viſiting, for I am ſo cloſely watched by his l———p's agents, that ſuch a ſtep muſt needs be attended with the moſt fatal conſequences. Abandon the thoughts therefore, I beſeech you, and let not the wiſh to ſee me at preſent, deprive me of the happineſs of your company for ever.”

“ Adieu,

Yours only,

G———.”

The faithful *Maitre d' Hotel*, who, by his letters ſigned Jack Sprat, had given L—— G—— an account of her l——p's tranſactions, in order to give him ſtill ſtronger proofs of her guilt, ſent him the following letter.

“Once more, and no more, if I have not enough pointed out ways for you to be convinced of the truth, I am not your friend, but if you have not a mind, you will take no notice perhaps of a certain perſon that is gone in diſguiſe, and lyes at every inn where ſhe does; examine your ſervants, and they will be more able to tell you of his conſtant attendance. He is now about your houſe and gardens in the country.”

Jack Spratt.

This letter, in ſome meaſure produced the deſired effect. It was a ſufficient hint to his l——p to be more watchful over his l——y's conduct, and he was ſo vigilent, as to render ineffectual all the endeavours the lovers uſed to ſee each other in private as before. He could not however preclude them from a literary correſpondence, as the following letter will clearly evince.

But before I preſent the reader with her l——p's epiſtle to his R—— H——, it will not be improper to mention, that l——y G—— having underſtood from her faithful confident Harriot, what ſteps his l——p had taken to diſcover the place of their aſſignations, and the ſucceſs which had attended his reſearches, hinted to the d——— of C———, that it would be better for the preſent, that he ſhould go to London. This he complied with, and on his arrival he received the following letter.

"*To his R—— H—— the D—— C——,*

"Monday night."

"My deareſt ſoul,

"I hope you are well; I am come up to ſtairs for bed, to ſteal this moment, to write to you a line, to tell you of ſomething that has happened; and though I hate to ſay any thing to you that may be diſagreeable, ſtill I am always determined never to conceal any thing from you, as you then can act as you will think beſt. My maid tells me, there have been ſome of our ſervants telling her, that it's all about here, that you have been here; and ſhe has already told me every particular, that you came down with us, and that we met here in the fields and lanes, and the day you went away; and that you was at Cheſter, at Halkin, and they knew you there; that you uſed to have your horſes at Eccleſton, the little ale-houſe, that you had a gentleman with you, and a ſervant: I denied it, and ſaid, I would acquaint my L——d, and make every body prove what they had ſaid; upon which ſhe turned pale, looked vaſtly frighted, and ſaid, it was from one perſon ſhe had heard it, and begged it might not be mentioned unleſs ſhe heard more. This makes me hope ſhe made the moſt of it, but yet

I fear it has been much talked of, by her naming so many particular facts. Do not be alarmed, my dear friend, but act as you think proper in regard to your coming down.——The worſt come to the worſt; thank God, my l——d has told Mr. G—— before me, we ſhall all be in town in about a month.——Nothing could make me ſo unhappy as not to ſee you; but at the ſame time, we had better not do any thing imprudent, and we might poſſibly not be able to meet but very ſeldom; which, when you had taken ſo much trouble in coming, would give me, if poſſible, more concern, than for you not to come; but conſider it well over, my deareſt friend, if we can meet with ſafety; nothing could give me ſo much, but our feelings and our dangers in this are mutual: For our meeting imprudently might endanger our not meeting ſo often at another time, but could it be done ſafely, it would be a pity to loſe any of our (too few) opportunities.—— I was very much frightened at firſt, but by thinking it over, am not quite ſo much alarmed, and hope it is not ſo much talked of as ſhe ſaid. She ſaid, that at firſt, they ſaid, there were highwaymen in the roads about, and that afterwards a perſon from Cheſter knew you, and diſcovered it to every body; I hope they won't dare to ſay any thing to my l—d, as he has not ſaid a word, or even named you, and he has been at Halkin. Mr. G——— leaves us to-morrow; and on Wedneſday we go to Mrs. H———, where I hope to receive your dear letter.——I am miſerable in having any thing to tell you, that can give you the leaſt uneaſineſs, it vexes me more than any thing I feel myſelf: What do you think about it? Pray, my dear ſoul, do either, what you think beſt; and I hope, as we have been tollerably fortunate hitherto, we may ſcramble through it ſome how or other; but I don't know what to ſay, what to adviſe, but I am ſure you can judge much better than me: Pray, let me have a few lines in lemon juice by C——, to tell me: I wiſh I could find a method for you to write in ink; I'll conſider about it night and day, but I fear I can't; but really I make out the lemon juice very well. We leave Mrs. H—— again on Friday: Don't, my dear ſoul, be alarmed about the affair; If you think it better not come, we ſhall meet, I hope, not three weeks later: Thank God, for that he ſeems horridly tired of being here, and impatient to be in town; he ſaid, he'd not be from London when the parliament meets for the world, and, I hope, will be there ſome days before; he is not ſo well, ſo, any how, thank God, we ſhan't be very long aſunder, though while I ſay ſo, a day, an hour, appears ten thouſand years; but, my ſoul, if you think you can come ſafely, we'll ſettle every thing the beſt that's poſſible, and we may do very well.—Oh! I don't know what to ſay; I ſay and unſay every minute.—I long to ſee you, and yet I would not do any thing that might be againſt our future meeting; in ſhort, I'll ſay no more, for I ſcarcely know what I ſay; my deareſt ſoul, think it over, and I am vaſtly in hopes every thing will be for the beſt, and will happen well and fortunate at laſt. I am racked between hope to ſee my dear friend, and fear of being found out; but don't, my life, be uneaſy, and think it over; and either way you determine, will, I dare ſay, end well: I have told Carrey, you will write a line to me, by her, in lemon-juice.—How happy it is we come to town ſo ſoon—let us think of that.—This letter is to ſet out at ſix in the morning by the poſt, as I muſt ſend it down as ſoon as I can, that my ſitting up may not be particular, and cauſe my letter being ſuſpected; ſo I won't ſay much more, but that I love you, and always ſhall, my dear friend: Pray, don't be vexed about this affair, aſk Truſty, what he thinks of it; God bliſs you, my deareſt, dear ſoul.

Ever with the moſt ſincere affection,

Your's

H——."

"We have gone on juſt as uſual, but to day he had a heap of men to dine here. Sir William Williams ſtays all night; Mr. G——r goes off in the morning: Farewell once more, my deareſt friend; don't, pray, be uneaſy, I intreat you, my ſoul.

"Je vous aimorois eternelement tris chorie, eſt adorable amme.

"What joy will it be to me when I can ſee my dear ſoul.

Bon ſoir."

The above letter was incloſed in a cover, *directed to the D—— of C——*, and forwarded, as already mentioned.

I think proper to mention in this place, the following adventure, which is ſaid, for I do not inſiſt on the truth of it, to have happened juſt before her l——p went out of town to her country ſeat.

In the beginning of their intimacy, as his r——l h—— had made ſeveral viſits, ſhe began to be a good deal ſurprized he did not preſs for the gratification of that paſſion he had ſo feelingly deſcribed: at laſt one day, amongſt other things, he told her that he was ready to do any thing ſhe could deſire to prove the ſincerity of his affection for her; to which ſhe anſwered in the moſt obliging terms, that ſhe would give him reciprocal proofs of her regard for him; and never once doubted but that the next moment he would graſp the opportunity, and put her to the proof of what ſhe had promiſed, but it happened however very differently; for, he told her, his love was pure and *honourable*; that he had no *baſe appetite* to *gratify*, and wondered, how any man could look at her with *unworthy deſigns*, adding, that his intention was to make her his *wife*, and *ſhelter* her *character* by that *means*, from any *unhappy ſlip* ſhe might inadvertently fall into in her future conduct.

Never was ſurprize equal to her's at this explanation of his intentions; ſhe pauſed ſome time, and revolving in her mind every part of her own circumſtances, ſhe told him, quite covered with bluſhes of gratitude, ſhe was afraid he had not maturely conſidered the propoſal he made her, which was totally incompatible with her preſent ſtate, as ſhe was already married; that ſhe was extremely affected with the tender proof he offered her of the ſincerity of his paſſion and *honourable intention*, and ſhould be infinitely happy, were ſhe conſcious her circumſtances in life could make her worthy of ſuch a huſband; but ſhe looked on herſelf ſo highly indebted to his generoſity, that ſhe could never bear the thoughts of taking any baſe or ſordid advantages of his paſſion and affection. He ſeemed aſtoniſhed at her diſcourſe, and impatiently waited to know what ſhe meant by this preamble, begging her to explain herſelf, which ſhe did by telling him frankly, that being married, ſhe could not think of quitting the embraces of her huſband, to throw herſelf into the arms of any other man. To which his r—— h—— replied, he applauded her virtuous intentions, but hoped ſhe would be induced to alter her reſolution in time, eſpecially, if a way could be found out to procure the enjoyment of each other, without appearing criminal in the eye of the world. He then repreſented to her in the ſtrongeſt terms, the wrong ſtep ſhe had taken in marrying a man, who muſt be neceſſarily diſagreeable to her, on account of his diſorders, not to mention the diſparity of their ages. He mentioned to her a method of procuring a divorce, which he flattered himſelf could not be diſagreeable to her, and promiſed himſelf to take all the neceſſary ſteps towards accompliſhing it.

L— G———, though ſhe had ſtill ſome remains of virtue left, yet her inclination for C——— was ſo great, that waving all other conſiderations, ſhe ſufficiently ſuggeſted to him by her looks, that this mode of acting would not be altogether diſpleaſing to her, and in this manner ſhe left him.

His r—— h———, willing to compaſs his ends at any rate, now caſt about to find out a perſon who for a trifling gratuity ſhould undertake to ſwear that her ladyſhip's marriage with lord G—— was not valid. This could be effected no otherwiſe than by proving, that at the time ſhe gave her hand to him, ſhe was not entirely at her own diſpoſal. To this end he procured a perſon, who ſometimes got conſiderable ſums of money by being an agent in thoſe ſorts of affairs. The name of this man was Bruce; one of obſcure birth, who followed the honourable profeſſion of a pettifogger. He, together with another of the ſame ſtamp, a man of infamous life and profligate character, of the truth of which his marrying trade, were it ſufficiently known, would be an undeniable proof.

Though her ladyſhip was at laſt, by the perſuaſions of C———, ſo far wrought upon, as to be readily diſpoſed to come into any ſcheme that could free her from the loathed embraces of him, whom ſhe now perſuaded herſelf was inſufferably hateful to her, yet ſhe could not help ſhuddering at the thought, leſt a thing that was only propoſed to evade the law, and ſet her free from her preſent engagements with lord G———, ſhould expoſe her in any ſhape to the power of his r—— h———, but upon expreſſing her doubts and ſcruples on this head, ſhe was ſoon made eaſy, and given to underſtand, that it was only a mere matter of form.

To this ſhe at length conſented, and was brought to believe that there could be no crime in cohabiting with the man whom ſhe loved more than her huſband. To amuſe her, Bruce pretended that her ſuit was carrying on in the commons very rigorouſly, though he knew that it was utterly impoſſible to bring it to an iſſue in her favour.

Things being thus circumſtanced, a houſe was taken in a private part of the town, where the lovers uſed to meet. At length his r—— h—— reſolved not to delay the completion of his deſires any longer; and one day, on an occaſion of public rejoicing, ſome elegant fire-works being exhibited, her ladyſhip was invited to ſee them. She accordingly went, but not without inconceivable horror and reluctance. At her entrance into the apartment, his

——h————, who had been there before her, received her with all poſſible marks of reſpect, tenderneſs and affection, and aſſured her that the buſineſs of his life ſhould be to protect and make her happy. That ſhe had nothing to fear henceforward either from fortune or her friends and relations, from whoſe power ſhe ſhould be for ever freed; in fine, nothing could be more paſſionate in all his declarations of love and fondneſs for her. When the illuminations were over, there was ſet on the table a cold collation of ſweatmeats, wine, &c. He prevailed on her to ſit down, and during the whole evening offered nothing that might alarm her with his intentions: he preſſed her extremely to drink a glaſs or two of wine, and when ſhe conſented, he deceived her, by giving her an opiate in it. She had been ſo little uſed to drink, that it was eaſy to put ſuch an impoſition on her; and the liquor had the deſired effect on her tender head: however, when ſhe expreſſed a deſire of returning home, he began by little and little to diſcover his deſign, and at laſt gave her to underſtand, that he expected ſhe would ſleep there that night.

What effect ſoever the liquor had upon her, it was not ſufficient to lull her into a quiet ſubmiſſion to ſuch a propoſal; and upon his abſolutely refuſing to let her go, it put her into the moſt terrible agonies. Tears and prayers were all in vain; ſhe was then in his power, and he reſolved to make uſe of it. However, he tried firſt what could be done by fair means, proteſting to her, that he would, in return for the favour he expected to enjoy from her compliance, make ſuch a proviſion for her as ſhould put her out of the power of dependence.

At laſt, finding nothing that he could invent or ſay could reconcile her to the thoughts of ſtaying there, as he walked backwards and forwards in the room, he took an opportunity of coming behind her, while ſhe ſat on a chair, which had a high back, and catching hold of her arms, drew her hands behind the chair, which he held faſt with his feet. In this poſition it was an eaſy matter for him with one hand to ſecure both hers, and take the advantage he had previouſly meditated, of cutting the lace of her ſtays with a pen-knife, which he performed with inconceivable precipitation. When her ſtays were thus unlaced, he tore away with very little difficulty, what elſe ſhe had on.

I believe the reader will not be offended, if I paſs over in ſilence what followed from this baſe procedure; for all honeſt minds will be ſufficiently ſhocked with the ideas which they may naturally form to themſelves of the ſucceeding ſcene, without the help of a deſcription: let it ſuffice that her ladyſhip's ruin takes its date from that fatal night, though not effected without the greateſt treachery, force and cruelty, (as has been already ſeen) on the part of his r—— h——. For my part, I am affected to the laſt degree even at the thoughts of ſuch a complication of misfortunes on the one hand, and villany on the other.

But to paſs over that diſmal night: no ſooner did the morning appear, bringing with it waking and ſerious reflections on her ſituation, but ſhe was almoſt diſtracted. The reader may be aſſured his r—— h—— ſpared no pains to pacify her; every thing that man could proteſt and ſwear to make her eaſy, was ſaid and ſworn. It is indeed extremely probable, that he now dreaded the vengeance of her huſband; for it is certain, had ſhe flown to him in the firſt emotions of her reſentment with viſible marks of violence to juſtify her complaints, his r—— h—— would have found himſelf in a very dangerous ſituation. Never was a poor creature's mind torn by ſuch a tempeſt of troubles: her ladyſhip made a thouſand different reſolutions in a moment, without being able to fix on one; and to have beheld her in this melancholly ſcene, would have drawn tears from the moſt adamantine heart. This moment ſhe reſolved to fly to her lord, the next ſhe trembled for the effects of the impetuoſity of his temper, which, joined with the apprehenſion of what ſhe might poſſibly be obliged to undergo from her mother, a lady of the moſt conſummate virtue, and who, conſequently, would never have forgiven even the ſlighteſt appearance of guilt in her daughter:—this totally put a bar to all thoughts of returning to her. What was now to be done? She was as it were friendleſs, had no one to adviſe with, and the loſs of her honour crowned the whole of her misfortunes, and ſhe now imagined, that ſhe had no other reſource left, but to throw herſelf into the arms of her lover, and depend entirely on his honour for her future well-being. This point was that which his r—— h—— laboured to bring her to; and being extremely ſatisfied, that, *he had brought her to reaſon,* (as he called it) he aſſured her, that he would never deſert her while he lived; and that he would take all imaginable care of her, and in every reſpect prove himſelf no leſs a man of honour, than an ardent lover. With theſe, and every other aſſurance his r— h—— could give, her ladyſhip returned home, where ſhe abandoned herſelf to all ſorts of melancholly reflections.

The firſt thing her ladyſhip did, as ſoon as ſhe had recovered her reaſon, which had hitherto forſaken her, was to adopt ſome meaſure which might in her preſent circumſtanees effectually free her from any future apprehenſions of an attack ſimilar to that which ſhe had lately ſuffered. C——— appeared moſt deteſtable in her ſight, nor was his high rank and dignity (as ſhe then thought) any palliation of his crime. She then took a firm reſolution never to ſee or hear from him more, until he had altered his ſyſtem of acting in her regard, and made her that ſatisfaction, which every woman of honour has an undoubted right to expect, from the man who has injured her. She then took pen, ink, and paper, and wrote him the following letter:

"—— Square, Tueſday,
12 o'clock.

"My L—— D——,

After your attrocious behaviour laſt night, you cannot but wonder, that I thus condeſcend to write to you. Imagine not, however, that I forgive your ill treatment; and though your exalted rank puts it entirely out of my power to take that revenge on you which my anger dictates, yet know that I ſhall ever reſent it with my lateſt breath. What! Did your r—— h—— baſely mean to decoy me to your wicked purpoſes, by the falſe dazzling luſtre of fading honours? Could you ſuppoſe I would proſtitute my virtue to a p——, whoſe greateſt honour ought to be, a ſteady adherence to the principles of goodneſs? Miſtaken man! No longer noble in my opinion, than while you act conſiſtent with your dignity! Let your glory hereafter be to protect and not betray the innocent, and let a ſincere acknowledgment of the wrong you have committed in thus injuring me, be the firſt ſtep to your repentance. I ſhall otherwiſe moſt certainly acquaint my l——d with what has paſſed; who, you very well know, is not apt to forgive the leaſt infringement of his honour, much leſs to pardon the mortal wound you have given him in the tendereſt part."

This letter ſhe delivered to her footman, ordering him to wait for an anſwer, if the perſon to whom it was directed, ſeemed inclined to ſend any. The ſervant excuted his commiſſion with fidelity; and, in about two hours, returned with the following anſwer.

"Injured fair one,

When I reflect on what paſſed laſt night, two paſſions, entirely oppoſite in their natures, at once take poſſeſſion of my ſoul, *viz.* horror and joy. The firſt on account of the outrage committed againſt your (till now) impregnable virtue; and I am ſeized with the ſecond, when I reflect on the exquiſite pleaſure I received from your delightful converſation. Divine creature! I love, and that ought to be a ſufficient apology for any inconſiſtency that may have appeared in my conduct. Love, angelic creature! is dead to all other conſiderations, than the object it adores. This now makes me forget for a moment that I am a p——, and humbly ſtoop to aſk forgiveneſs of you. Never more ſhall your peace of mind be invaded by me; and ſince I am ſo miſerable as to be hateful to you, I will in ſecret languiſh out my wretched life, till I at laſt die a martyr to your charms.

C——."

The above letter, ſo far wrought on her l——p as to prejudice her by degrees in favour of the writer, till at length, as has been already ſeen, this eſteem grew into perfect love for him.

It is proper I ſhould here mention another perſon, who alſo made love to her l——p, but who indeed had more his own intereſt at heart, than any affection he entertained for her; and was therefore moſt juſtly diſcarded by her.

This gentleman's name was H--k--ns. He was the younger ſon of a Roman Catholic family; and his father and mother had had a numerous progeny, and but a very moderate eſtate; yet he was bleſſed with talents that were a ſufficient recompence, and amply ſupplied the want of fortune to his family. His father was a humane and good-natured man, a moſt tender huſband, and affectionate parent; and one who led a moſt exemplary life. He had, beſides theſe laudable qualities, generoſity, hoſpitality, and an affable behaviour.

No wonder then that this happy mixture of accompliſhments procured him many friends, whoſe intereſt he made ſuch prudent uſe of, that his ſons were no ſooner grown, and of an age to go into the world, but he found means of introducing them in the moſt advantageous manner.

But as their religion was an abſolute bar to any preferment they might expect in England, they were educated abroad. Young H—k—ns was ſent to Paris, where he was brought up, and treated as a perſon of condition.

The high reputation the univerſity of Sorbonne bears, makes it almoſt needleſs for me to ſay, that it affords every advantage that can contribute to the education of youth: add to this the cheapneſs of the country, in comparison to England, which may be preſumed was one of the reaſons that induced his father to make choice of it for him. The little he could afford to beſtow on his education, anſwered there all the ends of a much greater expence at home.

The young gentleman had likewiſe the honour to be recommended by ſome of the firſt Roman Catholic nobility in this kingdom, to the protection of the then duke de Bourbon, whoſe favour he was always honoured with, and from his firſt arrival he made him one of his pages; for this was no interruption to his ſtudies; but rather gave thoſe who had the care of his education,

tion, a more partial attention towards

With all the advantages and opportunities to profit by ſo happy a beginning, we are now to examine how far nature had rendered him capable of improvement.

His perſon was, without being handſome, agreeable: he was rather tall than middle-ſized; but too much inclined to fat to be called well-ſhaped. There was ſomething full of meaning in his eyes, which his tongue had a moſt artful way of explaining. His whole figure together was graceful: he was clean even to female delicacy, and had a very dangerous addreſs;—dangerous it might be called, becauſe to every purpoſe he choſe to make uſe of it, its inſinuations were irreſiſtible.

His complexion was ſtrongly ſanguine; his dreſs inclined to the magnificient; his cloaths were well choſen, but gave him rather an aukwardneſs than a genteel air; for they were generally made ſo much too little for him, to humour his ardent deſire of appearing ſlender, it made his *trop en bon point* (or as it is called in Engliſh, the bulk of his body) the more conſpicuous, by endeavouring to hide it.

The feet upon which this comely ſtructure ſtood, were of a nice and delicate make; and that no part of him might want the leaſt ornamental aſſiſtance, his very ſhoes had a remarkable *ſhine*: This particular luſtre had alſo this innocent quality, that it left no ſoil, or ſign of familiarity on the ladies petticoats, a ſecret of no trival conſequence to the amorous H——k——ns.

He was of a robuſt, laſcivious conſtitution, but by nature ſo artful and ſelfiſh, that in a particular, in which the wiſeſt and moſt prudent men ſometimes fail, he always preſerved an inviolable adherence to his intereſt, which he very early found the uſefulneſs of making go hand in hand with his pleaſures; indeed, by this mercenary way of intriguing, he avoided the diſhonour that attends the favourite vice of others of betraying young girls, and the ill conſequence of being ſometimes obliged to pay for it.——— He choſe riper beauties, which anſwered his end both ways.

For this reaſon his addreſſes were chiefly made to married ladies, who had the command of their huſband's or lover's finances; he loved his eaſe, and therefore did not chuſe to be concerned, where his pleaſures were likely to be curtailed in any ſhape; if a child happened to follow, (which was a conſequence that ſeldom miſſed where he had an attachment) he choſe it ſhould be fathered without any inconvenience or expence to him, for he had a natural averſion to contributions, even where nature and humanity demanded.

And this parſimony was the more un-

unpardonable, conſidering how prolific our hero was; an inſtance of which we ſhall have occaſion to mention, greatly to his honour, in the caſe of a lady of quality, ſince dead; who (as it has been reported) called many to her huſband's aſſiſtance unſucceſsfully; —— no progeny appeared, 'till aided by the amorous H——k——ns; and if any credit may be given to his own relations, his exploits that way recommended him to many ladies, and ſome of them of high rank, indeed they had alſo the beſt fortunes.

But as the opportunities which favour theſe amours, like time, are to be caught flying, the compoſition made uſe of to clean gentlemens ſhoes, frequently expoſed him to diſcoveries, from ſome tell tale obſervations that might be made by a prying eye.

What was to be done in this caſe? For the precious moments that were waſted in putting off and putting on his ſhoes, he thought, might be huſbanded much more to his advantage; in fine, this was a matter of ſuch importance, he ſet himſelf ſeriouſly about ſomething that might anſwer the end without the inconvenience.

After much ſtudy and labour, he at laſt hit upon the *happy ſhining japan*; the ſecret of which curious compoſition, he has aſſured his faithful hiſtorian, was firſt owing to this conſideration; and he has the *particular merit* of having generouſly communicated it *gratis* to the public, which has ever ſince been of great utility, and ſtill continues the ſole ſubſiſtance of many a *worthy* and *induſtrious* ſhoe-boy.

His linen, no unpleaſing ornament in the ladies opinion, he was ſo laviſhly fantaſtical in, that he thought no expence extravagant to humour, which long before fortune had declared him a favourite, and even at a period, when he might be ſaid to have been in indigence, he was known to wear ruffles of three pounds a-pair.

Perfumes diſcovered his approach, as diſtinguiſhingly as the fragrance of the air does Arabia's coaſt; the tip of a white handkerchief, dipped in Eau admirable, was permitted to peep out of his pocket, and *give a ſample of his all-over ſameneſs.*

Thus equipped, the reader may imagine him launching from a fine gilt chariot into Arthur's, with a *majeſtic conſciouſneſs of the ſplendor of his figure*: But he did not remain there inactive; from thence he was conveyed to all the polite female coteries, where he made his appearance, and affected an air of gallantry and ſoftneſs, or, as Dryden ſays of Cleopatra,

"As if ſecure of all beholder's hearts,
"Neglecting he could take them."

But that I may not ſeem to vary too much from my point, it will be neceſſary to return to his younger days, in order to bring him more gradually forward into life; the reader will otherwiſe be ſurpriſed how he came to excel in the art of diſſimulation, unleſs they are informed of his beginnings. We muſt therefore conſider him firſt in nature's ſimple dreſs, e'ere his views had ripened into maturity under the ſunſhine of a court.

To ſhew then how early he was formed for hypocriſy, let the following account of him demonſtrate. He was one of thoſe of whom Shakeſpeare ſays, *ſo looſe of thought, that in their ſleep they will mutter their affairs.*

Of this kind was young H——k—s, for when his hypocriſy ſlept, he had been often heard to utter, what his waking appearance of ſanctity would have bluſhed at.

Under this veil, which he ſoon perceived was an infallible charm to take hold of his mother's heart, he found her weak ſide; while the young chevalier, his brother, like a carniverous creature, was running after the ſervant maids in a morning; he, our pious H—k—s, was as ſure to be found in his room on his knees; and ſo far did this ſhew of devotion prevail, that it ſoon diſtinguiſhed him in the favour of his parents, and not only gave him the command of his mamma's very ſcanty purſe, which was always open to him, but it likewiſe ſhut her ears againſt any ſtory, though ever ſo true, that was told to her to his diſadvantage.

The advantages, therefore, he reaped by his outward ſhew of ſanctity, were too precious to be loſt by his throwing it off, inſomuch that he choſe to appear in it among his companions of pleaſure, nor could all their raillery diſcountenance it.

Thus accompliſhed with this ſoft and ductile diſpoſition, which could *bow* and *bend* to every gale of *intereſt*, he was ſent to the Univerſity of Sorbonne, as before-mentioned. But, while at home, he had imbibed ſo early a taſte for love, that he had no reliſh for time only *waſted* in the tedious purſuits of learning: Therefore, he always found means to intermix the ſofter pleaſures with thoſe (however uſeful) leſs entertaining, and from his earlieſt days of manhood, was one of thoſe *cautious gallants*, who accuſtom love and learning to accompany each other.

Indeed this was a prudence the more neceſſary, conſidering one of his paſſions had ſo much the aſcendency over all his others; his avarice kept even the tyrant love in due ſubjection.

A proof of this evidently appears through the whole courſe of his life; for he wiſely took care never to attach himſelf, but where the idol, to whom his devotions were addreſſed, ſhould have it in her power to gratify him *both ways*: Indeed it is rarely ſeen, that women have the diſcretion to guard their *fortunes* from the power of the man whom they entruſt with their perſons.

During his ſtay in that country, he contracted an intimacy with one of the dames d'honneur, or ladies of honour to the queen, which had alike to have been attended with the moſt fatal conſequences; for though the lady was lovely in her perſon, her *fortune* was too ſmall to make a younger brother of H—k—ns's aſpiring genius happy, and he had too much worldly prudence and ambition to entertain any idea of becoming a huſband upon *other* conſiderations.

It was therefore a dangerous ſituation, for an innocent young lady, extremely beautiful, and of a ſoft and ductile temper, to be ſo circumſtanced, as to be *unavoidably expoſed to the inſinuations of the ſly and deſigning H——k——s*, who took all the opportunities a court gives young people who are ſervants in it, of being frequently together, to whiſper love to this poor young creature, who was called Madam de Poiſſi.

In vain did reaſon combat; the fate of Poiſſi hung upon his lips; ſhe ſoon felt the power of this artful invader: Alas! She loved, and the ungenerous H——k——s took the advantage of an unguarded moment to ruin her!—— Fatal period of a woman's life, where, nothing ſuſpecting, they hazard all! For in that hour of danger, virtue and reaſon ſleep,——There is no guard. ——

Nothing awakes but their attention: they hear,—believe,—and are undone! —Hapleſs Poiſſi! ſhe ſoon found the unwelcome effects of ſuch an intercourſe, by the too viſible effects of their amorous theft. This growing fruit of their ſecret commerce, was a circumſtance he could have gladly diſpenſed with. However, there was no time to loſe: a remedy for the evil was now the only thing to be thought of; and the firſt expedient that occurred to the conſcientious H—k—s, was to give the poor innocent Poiſſi drugs, that he hoped would procure abortion.

How far it might endanger the life of Poiſſi, ſo it deſtroyed the unoffending and unborn, that appearances might be ſaved, no matter; the crime was a trifling conſideration, not worth regarding, when the favour of his patron was at ſtake, whoſe reſentment would inevitably fall upon him, for having diſhonoured a young lady of her rank, and whom, he was reſolved at all events, never to marry.

Nature, however, refuſed to give up her charge, and ſtubbornly reſiſted the poiſonous draught. The unborn ſtruggled for life, even in embrio.

This was a ſtunning diſappointment. He never ſuſpected her delicate frame had ſtrength to combat againſt a compoſition of that noxious quality; and all the bloom and beauty of the divine

Poiſſi, could ſcarce give a reliſh to the ſickly appetite of the ſqueamiſh H—k—s, when he found his pleaſures were to be ever ſo little interrupted. She grew burthenſome from the pains he was obliged to be at, to conceal a ſhame that he himſelf had brought upon her: though if her ruin only had been concerned, it might poſſibly have been diſregarded; but the diſpleaſure of thoſe, under whoſe protection he was, would have inevitably fallen equally upon him, and ſo far it was a happineſs for Poiſſi, that his own intereſt obliged him to a concealment, which, had he been independent, might have ſat eaſy upon his *honour*.

In this perplexity he at laſt hit upon

another expedient, *to the full as honourable.*

There was a young gentleman, a Roman catholic, and who had a very large eſtate, at that time with him at the academy, who was greatly enamoured with the lovely Poiſſi; and never dreaming of H—k—s's intimacy with her, he, the honeſt, unſuſpecting C———t, (for that was his name) made him the confident of his paſſion; and as he perceived there was a great familiarity betwixt Poiſſi and him, which he thought their being ſervants together authorized, the loveſick C———t entreated the deſigning H—k—s to find ſome means to forward his ſuit with the lovely Poiſſi.

H—k—s aſſured him he would take all opportunities to ſpeak advantageouſly of him to the fair one, and would, as ſoon as he had ſounded her upon the affair, let him faithfully know her ſentiments; but withal gave him to underſtand, by ſome expreſſions he had heard Poiſſi let fall in his favour, he did not believe his addreſſes would be diſpleaſing.

How falſe ſoever ſuch an inſinuation was, it did not fail to give the amorous C———t content, who now looked upon H—k—s as his guardian angel. On the other hand, the wilely projector found this would be the only probable means to prevent a diſcovery, the conſequence of which might poſſibly have terminated in both their ruins.

But as there were many difficulties to encounter, and but little time to ſurmount them; it was neceſſary to ſet about it with all the expedition and addreſs he was maſter of; and the firſt grand one was, to diſpoſe the unhappy Poiſſi to ſacrifice herſelf to another; a point he found not quite ſo eaſy as he expected; for notwithſtanding all the art and eloquence with which he very well knew how to dreſs his purpoſe up, ſhe could not be perſuaded that any misfortune, not even the total loſs of reputation, could equal that of a total ſeparation from him; for Poiſſi had ſo much of the ſeeds of virtue in her ſoul, ſhe apprehended that to be married to another, was giving herſelf entirely to that huſband, and being for ever deprived of her dear H—k—s; but he ſoon undeceived her, and gave her to underſtand; that ſome wives, as well as husbands, broke through their vows and matrimonial contracts.

But this argument had no weight with Poiſſi, who had not been long enough under her lover's tuition, to reconcile ſuch actions with faith, truth, and honour: however, he continued by ſhewing her how impoſſible it was for him to marry her, and the inevitable miſery they ſhould be expoſed to, whenever the affair came to be diſcovered by their patrons.

But all the ſcenes of diſtreſs his art could paint, made not the leaſt impreſſion upon Poiſſi. She could apprehend no approaching miſery, which had the frightful aſpect of that ſhe formed to herſelf of being another man's; and would have readily accepted any propoſition, to the endangering even of life, rather than abandon him: the humbleſt ſtate of wretchedneſs, in her opinion, ſeemed preferable to that of becoming wife to any man on ſuch baſe conditions.

Finding none of theſe arguments could prevail, he at laſt reſolved to have recourſe to truth. A deſperate remedy! But the reader will pleaſe to obſerve, the diſeaſe was alſo deſperate; for it muſt have been an affair of no leſs conſequence, that could oblige the ſcrupulous H—k—s to act ſo much out of character: therefore he told her, if theſe were her ſentiments, he hoped ſhe would pardon him, if, to provide for his own ſafety, he immediately returned to England; for as he had no fortune to enable him to ſupport her, he had nothing left but to quit her for ever; that he was determined abſolutely not to face the reſentment of his patron, or ſtay in France upon any other terms, than what he had propoſed to her, having taken a reſolution, never, on any conſideration, to marry the woman he had once poſſeſſed.

However, ſo ſincere and uncourtly a declaration ſtruck the poor unhappy Poiſſi almoſt with death:—ſhe fell, fainting, at his feet, and it was with the utmoſt difficulty he could bring her back to life. This ungentle behaviour was near performing the operation, that the ſtrength of nature had denied to the drugs, calculated for the abominable purpoſe above mentioned.

With H—k—s, according to cuſtom, the thoughts of ſelf-preſervation were ever preſent. He inſinuated to her, that his friendſhip with C———t would always give him acceſs to her, and as C———t was not a man of the brighteſt underſtanding; he would from time to time give her ſuch inſtructions for the management of this propoſed huſband, that he would engage ſhould make life quite agreeable to them. He therefore entreated and begged of her, by all their tender ties of love and hopes of future happineſs, ſhe would yield to the only viſible expedient that could poſſibly be found out to prevent their mutual ruin.

Poiſſi, though with great reluctance, at laſt conſented, and promiſed to follow implicitly the inſtructions of her lover.

The affair was ſoon concluded: there was but little artifice neceſſary, to engage the amorous C——t to make an alliance, that he ſo evidently wiſhed for.

It was then reſolved, by the *ſage* advice of H—k—s, that C——t, who had no father alive, and who was of full age to command his own fortune, ſhould demand Poiſſi of the queen in marriage, which was readily granted; and no ſooner were the nuptials celebrated, than H—k—s, being now entirely rid of Poiſſi, embarked privately for England.

Having reached his native ſhore, and being pretty well furniſhed with caſh, he made an appearance ſuitable to a man of rank, and did not doubt by this means to captivate the heart of ſome dame of quality; whether married or ſingle was a ſmall conſideration, provided he could be enabled by ſuch an union, to ſupport his extravagance to its utmoſt extent.

With this view he frequented all places of public reſort, and always took care to put himſelf in the moſt conſpicuous place, that he might be taken notice of. It happened, that being at Almack's at a ball, where lady G——— was with C———, ſhe pointed at him, at the ſame time whiſpering his r——— h——— to know who he was. This H—k—s immediately conſtrued as a lucky omen: he took the D— of C— for a relation of hers. He accordingly advanced towards her, and offered to ſalute her; at the ſame time, he endeavoured to ſlip a paper into her hand, on which was written, "charming creature, I adore you." Her ladyſhip received this civility with diſdain, and in return for his inſolence, gave him a box on the ear, at the ſame time burſting into a loud laugh, proclaimed his diſgrace to the whole company. He retreated venting in his own mind a thouſand curſes againſt her ladyſhip.

But to return to her ladyſhip's adventures with C——, which are now drawing to a period, I ſhall in this place inſert a letter wrote by her to her ſiſter, which contains in a conciſe manner a great many curious anecdotes.

Tueſday-night.

"My deareſt ſiſter,

Your laſt letter, I muſt own, my dear little Carey, made me very uneaſy, as I was in very low ſpirits ; and, I am afraid, indeed not well. I am ſure I love you too well to riſque running you into any ſcrape ; therefore if there is the leaſt appearance of it, I would not give any chance of it for the world. The report you know, my love, is very falſe ; therefore that particular don't make me uneaſy, as it will be proved to the contrary, by ſeeing we live together. It was ſome ſpiteful perſon raiſed it maliciouſly, and very ſillily indeed, as the whole world muſt ſee the contrary. Mamma's mentioning it in a ſerious ſtyle to you was very ridiculous, as ſhe knows we are living together here ; and it may be of ſome uſe, both in regard to her and the world in general, as they will ſee falſe reports raiſed. If you remember, there was exactly the ſame report raiſed of L—y B—r—m—re, about the time ſhe was at Bath. The people ſeeing that falſe (and I remember myſelf for one) ſaid, we imagined every thing was ſo; and I aſſure you, my deareſt Carey, I propoſe behaving in ſuch a manner as will be quite proper and clever, when I come to town, which I hope will be very ſoon; and I ſhall tell you all my plans, when I have the happineſs of ſeeing you.

Mamma's behaviour to you, and ſpeaking in that manner, I do aſſure you, hurts me much more than any thing in regard to myſelf. How little Mamma's friendſhip is worth having, when ſhe is turned and wound about every different way by a little flattery. If ſhe was my friend to day, and abuſed my enemy, if to-morrow they falſely told her, they loved her by way of impoſing upon her, and getting her to their ſides, ſhe ſhould be ſtill more inveterate againſt me, than ſhe had been againſt them.

"I have been very ill uſed in the world, and thoſe that have profeſſed themſelves my friends, have generally acted to me in this ſtyle. You, my dear Carry, have been a real friend, I ſhall ever acknowledge it with my laſt breath, and ever be ſincere to you. I only wiſh it may ever be in my power to ſerve you. I would be happy beyond meaſure to prove it to you, indeed I would, I am capable of ſincere friendſhip. I have only my own word for it now, but will prove it with joy, and thankfully if fortune will but let me.——

My poor friend indeed has taken a moſt terrible journey, and only juſt ſeen me twice: they are very prudent, and told me the ſecond time, they ſhould ſet out immediately for fear of danger. You ſee by this means my love, it was impoſſible for me to write, as I did not know it till then, and that in the place I ſaw them it was impoſſible to write, or indeed my dear, I ſhould not have been ſo ungrateful, not to have wrote as I promiſed, and anſwered yours."

" My dear, I am very low ſpirited: I wiſh I could have a fly over to you, and talk every thing over: and I do believe, we ſhould make one another eaſier, when you know how I propoſe to act."

"I would not have you indeed ſend any to S——ros, as your ſervants ſeem to ſuſpect, and be ſo croſs about it; for I would not have you run a riſque for me in the world. If I had an idea of it, I would not have ever aſked you, but I thought by one way or other, either happening to call or ſend, as it was only now and then, it would not be ſuſpected: but as they once begin to think, it is much better to do it no more. I deſired my friend to ſend on Saturday morning for this, and to ſend to you, as I thought that way would be ſafe; and to ſend another, for them to ſend for on Thurſday ſevennight, unleſs you think it will be dangerous; if ſo let me know, and I will never ſend again, but contrive ſome way, juſt for one more or ſo, which will be all I ſhall have occaſion to write before I ſet out, juſt to let them know the day we ſet out, for I do believe and hope we ſhall ſet out in leſs than three weeks, for he ſaid to day, he did not believe he ſhould ſtay ſo long as he at firſt thought, which was againſt the meeting of parliament, ſo may be we may ſet out in a fortnight. He ſeems horridly tired of this place, and is fidgetting forever into Wales, &c. He ſets out for Wales to-morrow, and only came back from there on Sunday, ſo I hope it cannot be now long before I ſee my dear little Carry again. Don't be low my dear love: I am afraid you will make yourſelf ill. I wiſh to God you had a little country air."

"Never mind what any of them ſays, nor let them vex you. I've a vaſt good plan to tell you of——ſo if people don't change their note this winter—— I know your are laughing, and think I am only building caſtles in the air, but ſee if you don't find it as I ſay—— I aſſure you, you will——. I am uneaſy about my friends——I dont think them well——I have adviſed them to go into public; as, are not you of my mind, that it would appear too particular for them, juſt to come out, when I come to town, and they think ſo too. Well, God bleſs you! My L——d is come home, ſo I muſt not ſay much more at preſent, but you ſhall hear again from me very ſoon: I think what you ſay, in regard to Billy, may do very well; I'll try, when I come to town, by hints, as you ſay, puſhing the preferment; Oh! a wheel within a wheel! I'd lay any thing ſome of the G——rs have been at mamma canting, (the devil take ſuch deceipt!) and told about your going out with me: Never mind; ſhe cannot prove any thing; don't be frighted, for that's impoſſible, let her ſuſpicions be what they will, for ſhe is very credulous in every goſſip's ſtory.

Adieu my dear ſoul! Forgive the writing nonſenſe, and be merry, pray: I have many things to make you laugh about, when I ſee you, and believe me ever moſt

ſincerely and affectionately

Your's

H. G——."

"Robin forever talks of you; he and dicky ſend their loves; he has been drinking aunt Tarralilive's health juſt now."

The foregoing letter, and one directed to the D—— of C——, were incloſed in a cover, directed by I—— G——, as follows:

"*To the honourable Miſs*

V—— at St. James's ——

London."

The

The following letter incloſed in the foregoing one to Miſs V——n, was written juſt before the diſcovery of their amour, and was the laſt but one, his r——l h———ſs received from her, before her final ſeparation with l——d G———.

Tueſday evening 5th.

My deareſt ſoul,

Moſt ſincerely unhappy I've felt ever ſince we parted, both in having loſt your dear company, which is ſo great a happineſs to me, and in the thought of the cold dreadful journey you have had; indeed I've been miſerable about you, I'm afraid you are ſcarcely arrived yet, I've not heard any news at all about you, but I've been low ſpirited ever ſince, tho' I've hid it as much as in my power, I don't know how to expreſs my gratitude to you, for the conſtant proofs you give me of the ſincerity of your affection, I'm ſure all the trouble you have taken, only juſt to ſee me, thoroughly convinces me of it, you ſay all the return you deſire is my affection and friendſhip, indeed you have them moſt ſincerely, my heart is always with you indeed, it is, my deareſt friend——they came home ſunday to dinner, he was here a little before the reſt, he came on horſe back, as he rode part of the way I grew in a fright, leaſt as he rode he might have come to ſhorten the way through the fields, and meet you, but hoped as he did not arrive till neariſh 3 that you was got to where you dined firſt. To day they are gone to Cheſter to dinner, and to morrow I believe they ſet out for Wales. I ſhall endeavour to catch my letter before he comes—I hope C wont make any objections to receiving and ſending the letters by the means you propoſe, of ſending Truſty to her, if ſhe does pray let me know and I'll be ſure to find a method of writing to you, and I'll tear my brains to pieces but I'll find ſome way of hearing once or twice from you while we are here; I thank God I don't believe it will be long for he has been talking to day of ſetting out, and ſays he believes he ſhall go before he at firſt thought of, which was againſt the meeting of parliament. As I am in vaſt hopes he will fix the day ſoon, and I will immediately write you word when I know, as ſoon as I hear from you and

C——ys, and find if I may write again by her, I will take the firſt moment any how if I don't hear to the contrary from C——, I'll write the beginning of next week, that if you ſend on Thurſday ſe'ennight it will be at C——ys. I ſhall be ſure to find ſome opportunity as I dare ſay he will not be long together at home—— while I feel it ſo cold I'm in pain and miſery for you—good God in thoſe poſt chaiſes how ſtarving it muſt be, I'm ſo in fear it ſhould hurt your breaſt. Do take care of yourſelf pray my dear, dear friend, and if you are not quite well pray take ſome advice. Don't take it ill my plaguing you ſo, but realy I love you ſo much I can't help wiſhing you to take more care of your health.

He ſeems in a tolerable humour not much one way nor the other but ſtill drinks toaſt and water and very little wine he had a little weazing laſt night, I ſuppoſe dining out to day wont do him much good he ſais as the weather is ſo cold he could get off his buſineſs in Wales, but I realy beleive he is very glad of any excuſe to carry him there as he dont ſeem to know what to do with himſelf at home

I do beleive and hope there is no ſuſpicions about you, and indeed tho painful I'm ſure to both of us I really beleive it was the moſt prudent thing poſſible to go before people talked or began to ſuſpect; nothing here has happened worth relating, I've breakfaſt'd din'd and ſup't gone to bed and riſe at the ſame hour as uſual, but we rehearſt our play in my room the other night, I fancy it will be done middling well—its a moſt horrid play but they will have it—I muſt act both the womens characters—we are not to have the general rehearſal in the playhouſe till Monday evening —— indeed my dear ſoul you are very prudent in intending to go a little in public before I come to town, it wou'd really look much too particular juſt to come out then and might cauſe remarks, which poſſibly might be conveyed to my L^{d}. and every thing of that ſort might rouſe him and make him more and more obſervant to prevent our meetings, and the beſt thing we can poſſible do now is to make him beleive it is all over between us, and we have really I beleive blinded him, for ſome time, at leaſt he has no proof about us, and I hope to God that by degrees his ſuſpicions will be lull'd, and then we may form ſome plans for our meeting happily—we muſt not deſpair but look forwards, that is the only way to ſupport ourſelves under our preſent unhappy ſituation, and there is probability of many things happening to mend the preſent, ſo we think like philoſophers, and believe every thing is for the beſt, and hope we may enjoy better days ſoon—and indeed I think it very probable, my deareſt and dear ſoul—with this idea be happy, if I knew you were ſo I ſhou'd be more than half way to it, as I aſſure you what concerns you is more to me than my own feelings upon any thing. God forbid there ſhould be a war, if you go, what then remains for me but miſery, don't let us think on that, no, its wrong, one muſt not meet misfortune; but how can I talk ſo, I'm ſure, that is not adopting the ſtyle I before propoſed to look forward for the better times.——I ſhall long to hear from you, my dear life, indeed I do; I am afraid you had a miſerable journey indeed; I hope C—— will manage our letters as you ſend, if ſhe won't, don't be uneaſy, I'll certainly contrive ſome other means to write and to hear from you.——I ſhall write to C—— as ſoon as I have done this, and perſuade her all I can; I really think no body can ſuſpect any thing as you ſaid——ſo if you ſend to her the Thurſday after you get this, you'll find another from me; I think I had better now conclude, and write my letter to C——, as I imagine he will come pretty ſoon, or I could write to you forever, indeed, my deareſt ſoul, I could tire you to death with my nonſenſe.— I ſhall only now add what I have often ſaid to you, my deareſt friend, that you may ever be aſſured of my tendereſt and moſt ſincere affections, and that I ſhall ever remain, in the trueſt ſenſe of the expreſſion,

Your's moſt faithfully
and affectionately."

"You have thoroughly convinced me of your regard for me, which I prize above all things, and can never thank you enough for the proofs you have given me of your love."

The foregoing letter was incloſed in a cover, directed *to the D— of C——d in*, &c.

In the cover was written as follows:

"Pray, my dear, do tell my poor friend Foulkes, I very ſincerely condole with him, and adviſe him not to mind the old people, if he loves her, and ſhe loves him, to perſuade her to run away with him, it will be delightful, I wiſh to goodneſs they would."

Having thus given the reader as authentic an account of the amours of his r—— h—— with lady G—— as could be procured, I ſhall cloſe this hiſtory with a ſuccinct narrative of what paſſed at the trial of the delinquents, in the court of K—'s B—ch, on Thurſday, July 5.

It will however be neceſſary here to inſert a letter from her ladyſhip to the D— of C———, a few days after an excurſion he made into the country for a little time, as it will ſerve to elucidate ſeveral circumſtances, which happened immediately preceding the trial. The epiſtle was as follows:

"My dear ———,

"The day after you left London, I received authentic intelligence, that his l——p had determined to litigate the affair in D—— C——s. I knew not what ſtep to take, and therefore patiently ſubmitted to my fate. I knew that a week would make very little difference in an affair which the gentlemen of the robe were to be concerned in, and therefore did not trouble you with any letter during your abſence, unwilling as I was to diſturb that repoſe, which I hoped you would enjoy in the courſe of your tour. I hope it has not been a diſagreeable one, and that you are returned in perfect health to London. I juſt now learn that his lordſhip is reſolved to carry matters to the utmoſt extremity, and to take every advantage that the laws will afford him. In this conjuncture therefore I beg your advice, by which I will be wholly guided. I think it would not be prudent for you to attempt ſeeing me, or to ſend any more letters, except a final one, how you intend to act in this critical emergency.

I am,

With the warmeſt attachment,

Unalterably yours,

G——.”

To this letter, his r—— h—— returned the ſubſequent anſwer:

“My Angel!

Since his lordſhip is for a legal ſubmiſſion, we muſt ſubmit; and we will ſee him out with reſolution. He is determined to try the merits of the cauſe; be it ſo; the trial ſhall be attended with ſufficient expence, and every chicanery which the law will admit of, ſhall be put in force againſt him. Who knows my charmer, we may yet come off conquerors; but be that as it will, we will riot in pleaſures for the remainder of our lives. Favour me with a ſlight note, intimating that you have received this letter, and here let our correſpondence drop for the preſent.

Yours everlaſtingly."

L— G——— diſpatched her ſervant, with the following card:

"I have the favour of your r—l h——'s laſt. I applaud your ſpirit, and I will endeavour to wait with chearfulneſs the event of the matter."

To come therefore to the trial; it began at ten o'clock in the morning; when his r—— h—— was, according to the form of law, indicted for crim. con. with lady G——. The trial was heard before lord M——d, lord chief juſtice of the court of King's B—h, at Weſtminſter. The damages were laid very high, being no leſs than one hundred thouſand pounds. The council for his r—— h—— were, Mr. D——, Mr. Sk——, Mr. M——, and Mr. J——, and the attornies were, Meſſrs. Buxton and Winduſe. On the part of lord G——r, were, Mr. W———n, S——t G—n, S——t L—gh, Mr. W—l—ce, Mr. W——er and L——e; attornies, Meſſrs. Palington and Garth. The council pleaded with great ability on both ſides, particularly Mr. W————n and Mr. D——g.

Purſuant to the uſual method of proceeding, Mr. W————rn, council for the plaintiff, opened the caſe, and methodically ſtated the facts from beginning to end. In the courſe of his narration he read the copies of ſeveral letters which paſſed between the parties, i. e. his r—— h—— and lady G——, which occaſioned great entertainment to the whole court.

After ſtating the caſe, which took up very near an hour, he entered into obſervations on it, as well as the contents of the letters. He aſked (as the words, *mutual feellings*, and "I hope, I ſhall never have occaſion to *repent* this confidence," were mentioned in one of her letters, "What mutual feelings ſhould paſs between a married woman and any other perſon but her husband? Or why the word *repent* ſhould be uſed, if it did not imply ſtrongly a foregone diſhonour? He obſerved, that it would be given to the jury in evidence, that his r—— h—— had aſſumed the fictitious name of Morgan, a country ſquire, not very *ſound* in his *underſtanding*; that he had taken down a ſervant with him to St. Albans, who went by the name of

Trusty, for the purpoſes of carrying on this intrigue with greater ſecurity."

He therefore obſerved, with great accuracy and judgment, to the jury, "that they had two principal objects for their obſervation; the firſt, was the very great quality of the defendant, and the ſecond, the irrepairable injury ſuſtained by the plaintiff; as to the former, he ſaid, no given ſum could be puniſhment ſufficient, as the elevated rank and ſituation of life he ſuſtained, ſhould the more deter him from ſetting a bad example to the ſubordinate claſſes of ſociety. He obſerved, there were certain ſituations in life, that made the ſame offence more criminal in one than the other, on account of the greater duties they may owe the offended party in particular, or ſociety in general."

He farther ſaid, "that in the preſent caſe, though the damages might be thought to be laid high, yet as it was all the puniſhment the law could inflict, none of it ought to be remitted, as they had it now in their power to convince his r—— h——— in particular, and every man of rank in general, that the laws of England in the hands of a *Britiſh jury*, are always ſuperior to ſituation and connexions. He likewiſe hoped, that this would, in future, direct his r—— h——— to nobler purſuits than the ſeduction of the wife of a peer, and incline him to copy from a very near relation of his (meaning his m—) whoſe conjugal attachments, abſtracted from his other virtues, not only ornamented the throne he filled, but ſhed a bright example to his ſubjects in general."

The ſeveral witneſſes were next called, whoſe depoſitions amounted to as follows:

The firſt was the Rev. Mr. Taylor, whoſe knowledge of the fact amounting to no degree of evidence, had leave to withdraw after a few queſtions. The next was Elizabeth Sutton, maid-ſervant to the counteſs of D——; ſhe declared on being examined by ſerjeant Glynn, that a gentleman (whom ſhe deſcribed as the duke) frequently came in a chair, muffled up, to her ladyſhip's houſe in the country; that he inſtantly went up to lady G——r's room, and continued with her ladyſhip generally an hour, or more. The next witneſs called up was John Boran, a ſervant to lord G——r, who depoſed, he carried letters to and from his r—— h—— and his lady. Denniſon, her ladyſhip's chairman, was next examined, who was one of the principal evidences in this affair. He depoſed that he ſeveral times carried his lady to the back door in the park of his r—— h——'s houſe, where ſhe went in, and ſtaid a conſiderable time: that he was one of thoſe ſervants that went down with lord G——r's to St. Alban's—that breaking open a door by order of Mr. Groſvenor, with two more of his fellow-ſervants, he found the D—— of C—— ſitting on the bedſide along with his lady; the bed in great diſorder; the front part of her riding habit all unpinned; her ſtays off, and his r—— h—— partly undreſſed; that on their entering, her ladyſhip made towards the door of communication with the other room, but, in the attempt, fell; on which he, who was left to guard the door they entered by, went to her aſſiſtance, which his r—— h—— availed himſelf of, and run out, calling on them when he got on the other ſide the door, "to take notice he was not found in the room; and that he would give his *Bible Oath* he was not."

Several other witneſſes were called on in ſucceſſion, who all corroborated the diſcovery at St. Alban's, which ſeemed to be the principal point aimed at by the plaintiff's council. The council on the other ſide then entered into obſervations on the ſeveral evidences, where Mr. Dunning ſhewed his uſual ingenuity and cleverneſs.

The trial being over, at ſeven o'clock lord M——d gave his charge to the jury, which laſted little more than half an hour; when the jury withdrew, and his lordſhip adjourned the court to his houſe in Bloomsbury ſquare; exactly at ten, the jury left the hall, and proceeded in four coaches to his lordſhip's houſe, where they gave a verdict for the plaintiff, with *Ten thouſand pounds* damages.

Thus ended the tryal of his r—— h—— the D— of C——, for crim. con. with L— G——, which was proved by circumſtances only, and not by facts.

F I N I S.

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